WORLD / A23

Pakistan opposition leader Bhutto under house arrest; supporters held

BUSINESS / B1

Sept. exports up 4.7% to $4.37B; coco oil up 67.2%

NEWS / A5

Meralco cuts rates by 34¢/kWh starting November

NEWS / A9

Officers accused in coup try walk out of court-martial

SAT. SPECIAL / F1

Cruise, Streep spark screen magic in Redford film

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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Saturday, November 10, 2007 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 335 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Tagalog language courses big hit in US university

By Tarra Quismundo

SEATTLE—ON ITS HOME GROUND, THE Philippine national language is mangled in online chats and text conversations or spoken in hybrid fashion with the widely used English, if not considered inferior to the latter.

But in a major university here, the Philip-

TAGALOG/ A19

ARMM cops return Bedol arrest warrant unserved

By Alcuin Papa and Beverly T. Natividad

CHIEF SUPT. JOEL Goltiao seems to be wishing that wanted men would not go into hiding so that the life of a policeman would,

ARMM / A19

Peso surges to 42.79:$1

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE LETTER SHE NEVER GOT: "Wish Ko Lang" host of GMA 7's reality show, Vicky Morales, finally gets to read the letter 12-year-old Mariannet Amper wrote her but never sent when she flew to Davao City on Thursday. The letter lists down the wishes closest to her heart.

OFW money, weak US dollar propel peso to new 7-year high

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY BREACHED THE CRUCIAL 43-to-$1 psychological barrier, surging to a new seven-year high of 42.795 on strong foreign exchange inflows and the continued decline of the United States dollar over the US Federal Reserve chair's grim view of the US economy.

Now Asia's best performing currency, the peso opened at an intra-day low of 43.19 and closed near the intra-day high of 42.67 against the US dollar. The peso gained 51 centavos from Thursday's finish of 43.305 against the US dollar.

The US dollar hit a new record low against the euro and multi-year lows against other currencies after Fed chair Ben Bernanke's remarks on an expected US economic slowdown stoked expectations of another US interest rate cut in December.

A potential cut in interest rates by the US Fed will make high-yielding assets from emerging markets like the Philippines more attractive to offshore investors.

Traders said expectations of heavy foreign fund inflows into the stock market, remittances from Filipino overseas workers and the US dollar's broad weakness had boosted the peso.

They said the peso's sharp appreciation was even tempered by the central bank's dollar purchases from the open market. They estimated that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' interven-

PESO BREACHES/ A15

Mariannet burial today; Church in dilemma

By Jeffrey M. Tupas and Germelina A. Lacorte
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—THE DEATH OF 12-YEAR-old Mariannet Amper has not only shaken the government, it appears to have placed the Catholic Church in a dilemma.

Mariannet, who committed suicide because of her family's poverty, will be buried today but she may not get funeral rites, despite her being a devout Catholic at a very young age.

Fr. Zenon Ampong, head of the St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Barangay Ma-a here, was uncertain about the request of the family of Mariannet for her to be brought to the church for funeral rites, citing the policy of the Catholic Church on suicide.

Historically, a person who committed suicide would often be denied funeral rites and even burial in a church cemetery.

However, Fr. Elias Ayuban Jr. JCD (doctor of Canon Law), rector of Claret

MARIANNET / A10

GMA critics send 'Pinoy BigBriber' eviction notice

By TJ Burgonio, Dona Pazzibugan and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

"DEAR ATE GLO, I AM SORRY. You are evicted *na* (already)."

So read the curt message on the back of a postcard sent by a civil society group to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Leaders of the Black and White Movement and their allies yesterday mailed hundreds of such postcards to Ms Arroyo to express their outrage over the distribution of paper bags full of money to congressmen and local officials during meetings in Malacañang last Oct. 11.

The message on the front of the card read: "Pinoy BigBriber GMA EDITION. *Nakatanggap ka ba sa bahay ni Ate Glo* (Did you also receive [money] at the house of Ate Glo?"

Its design was patterned after the reality TV show "Pinoy Big Brother."

The back of the card carried a postscript which read: "*Kaya mong gaguhin ang ilang tao sa lahat ng panahon. Kaya mong gaguhin ang lahat ng tao sa konting panahon. Pero di mo kayang gaguhin ang lahat ng tao sa lahat ng panahon* (You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time)."—Abraham Lincoln.

The protesters, numbering

GMA CRITICS/ A15

Artists to NPC: You own mural, we have copyright

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Jerome Aning

IN A DEFIANT MOVE, THE NEO-Angono Artists Collective (NAAC) displayed the unaltered "press freedom mural," claiming copyright over the art piece.

A copy of the controversial mural printed on tarpaulin was displayed in the auditorium of the Claro M. Recto Hall at the University of the Philippines in Diliman where the NAAC held a forum yesterday to reiterate its ownership of the painting.

Richard Gappi, NAAC president, stressed that although the National Press Club (NPC) bought the painting, his group maintains intellectual property rights over the artwork.

"They commissioned us (NAAC). But we still have intellectual property rights over the mural. We did not lose our moral and economic rights over the art piece," Gappi said in Filipino.

"That is not our complete work," the NAAC president said, referring to the press freedom

ARTISTS/ A18

REM ZAMORA

OBONG: DI for past 11 years

Dulce's last words: Philip, what happened?

By Julie M. Aurelio

BEFORE SHE SUCCUMBED TO the void, Dulce Saguisag tried to make sense of what had happened. "Philip," she said, addressing the family driver, *"ano ang nangyari?"*

Dance instructor Rhea Imelda Obong recalled hearing that feeble cry moments after a dump truck slammed into the van carrying her, Rene and

DULCE'S/ A18

Rene recovering but still in the dark on wife's fate

By DJ Yap and Jerome Aning

DESPITE HIS SEVERE INJURIES, RENE Saguisag has a "very good chance" of full recovery, according to his doctors.

Yesterday, he managed to communicate with members of his family through writing and body signals, like nodding his head, said Dr. Victor Alvarez, a neurosurgeon who is leading the team of specialists attending to the former senator.

He cannot speak as yet because of a tube that is helping him breathe.

"As of now, he's very clear, very lucid ... He understands us perfectly. Barring unforeseen complications, we have good reason to believe that he will pull through," Alvarez told reporters at the lobby of the Makati Medical Center.

"He will probably be the same Attorney Saguisag" once he recovers, Alvarez said.

In a medical bulletin issued earlier yesterday, Dr. Eric Nubla, head of the MMC's patient relations office, said of the 68-year-old Saguisag: "He can open his eyes; he can smile and he can recognize his family."

Alvarez said the first questions posed by the

RENE/ A18

A STEADY STREAM OF PRAYERS: Visitors at the wake of Dulce Saguisag at the St. Scholastica chapel include nuns to students to VIPs like ex-President Cory Aquino who condoles with Dulce's sisters, from left, Pat Bernard, Alma Kern and Gina Stacher.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2007

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon and the Eastern section of Southern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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JDV: NorthRail is no ZTE deal

Speaker admits meeting, 'but why is Enrile talking only now?'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA YESTERDAY ADmitted meeting Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile two years ago and telling him not to "rock the boat" over the $550-million North Luzon Railways Corp. (NorthRail) project.

But De Venecia shrugged off Enrile's insinuation that he had an interest in the venture other than "appealing to the Chinese government to undertake the project."

"This is not a ZTE," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview, referring to the controversial national broadband network (NBN) project cornered by China's ZTE Corp. but was later cancelled by the Arroyo administration due to allegations of bribery.

De Venecia claimed that Enrile's accusation was connected to the damaging testimonies by his son and namesake's against the NBN deal.

Retaliation

"This is a form of retaliation," he said. "The meeting happened nearly three years ago, but how come he is talking about it only now?"

Jose "Joey" de Venecia III had testified at the Senate that he was told to back off from the NBN project by Jose Miguel Arroyo, the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Since then, De Venecia said he had become a target of increasingly vicious attacks, in-

DE VENECIA

ENRILE

cluding attempts to oust him as Speaker.

De Venecia said he indeed sat down with Enrile in 2005 but only to highlight the importance of the NorthRail project for the country and the key role being played by the Chinese government in it.

"He's correct," he said. "I told him 'Don't rock the boat.' But this was because the Chinese government might pull out of the project, their first railway project in Southeast Asia."

The Speaker said he was concerned because many other countries had turned down Philippine invitations for them to finance the construction of an entirely new rail track to cover areas under NorthRail's jurisdiction.

"President Arroyo and I appealed to the Chinese government to get it started," De Venecia said.

Sharing the 'credit'

Instead of being criticized, De Venecia said he and the President should in fact be given credit for raising funds for the NorthRail project. He said credit should also go to Vice President Noli de Castro, who is in charge of the resettlement program.

De Venecia said the NorthRail is being financed by a 20-year concessional loan from the Chinese Export-Import Bank and its construction is being undertaken by CINMEC, a Chinese government subsidiary.

"There should be some statesmanship in Senator Enrile," he said. "He should not make these unfair accusations. I've never engaged in adversarial and destructive politics."

De Venecia said Enrile should raise his complaint against the NorthRail project with the Chinese government and the Philippine officials involved in the negotiations.

He said the project was approved at the highest levels of the Chinese government and negotiated by three Philippine finance secretaries and other ranking members of the Arroyo government.

De Venecia said he is also a proponent for similar rail projects for Mindanao, the Panay Island, and the railway going to Bicol.

According to Enrile, the NorthRail and NBN projects would show a pattern of wheeling and dealing by the Speaker in big-ticket projects funded by the Chinese government.

"Speaker Jose de Venecia cannot claim NorthRail to be an old issue. It is very relevant to the NBN project in as much as the two may show a pattern of interference on government projects by the Speaker's office," said Enrile.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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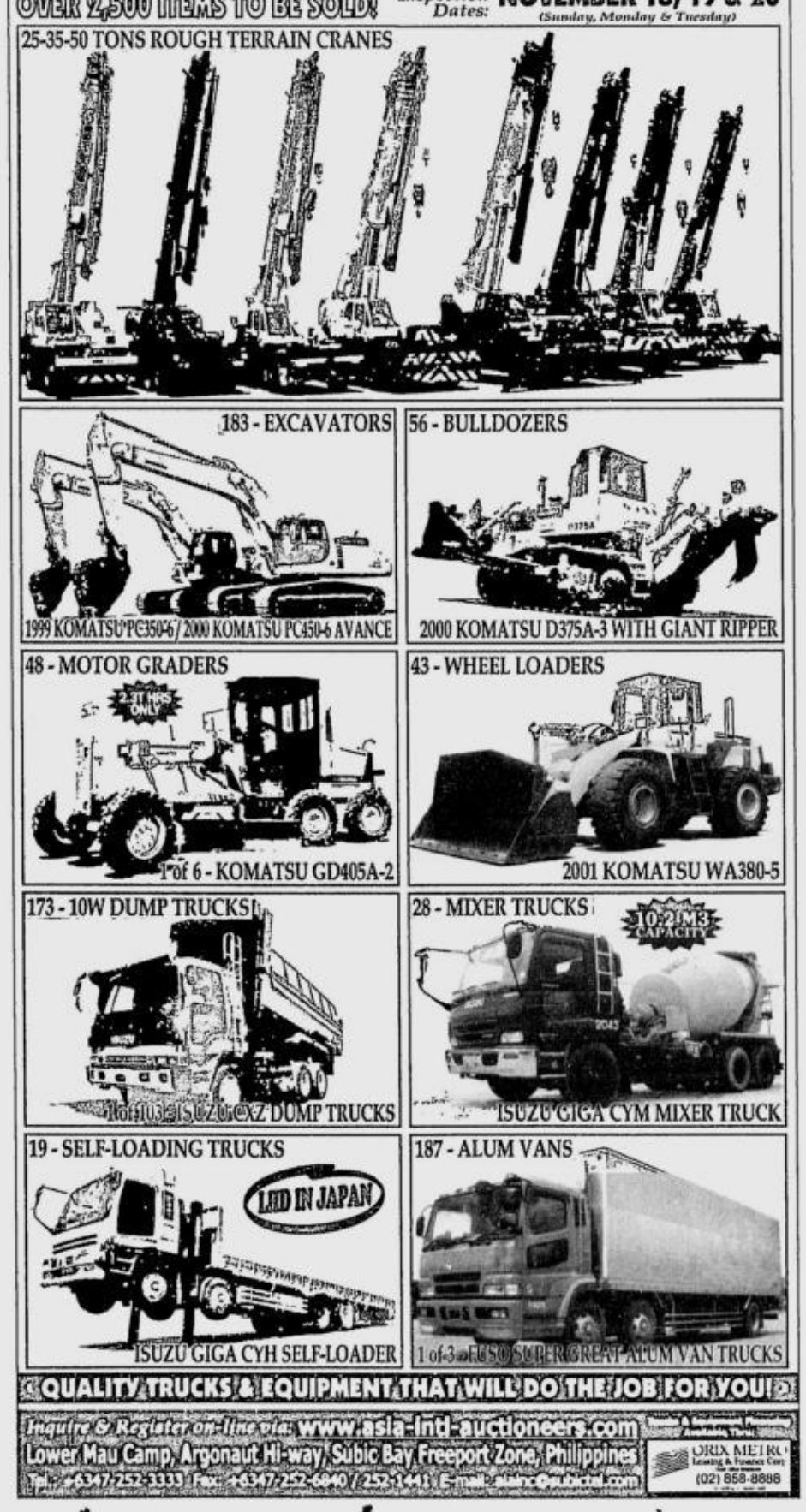

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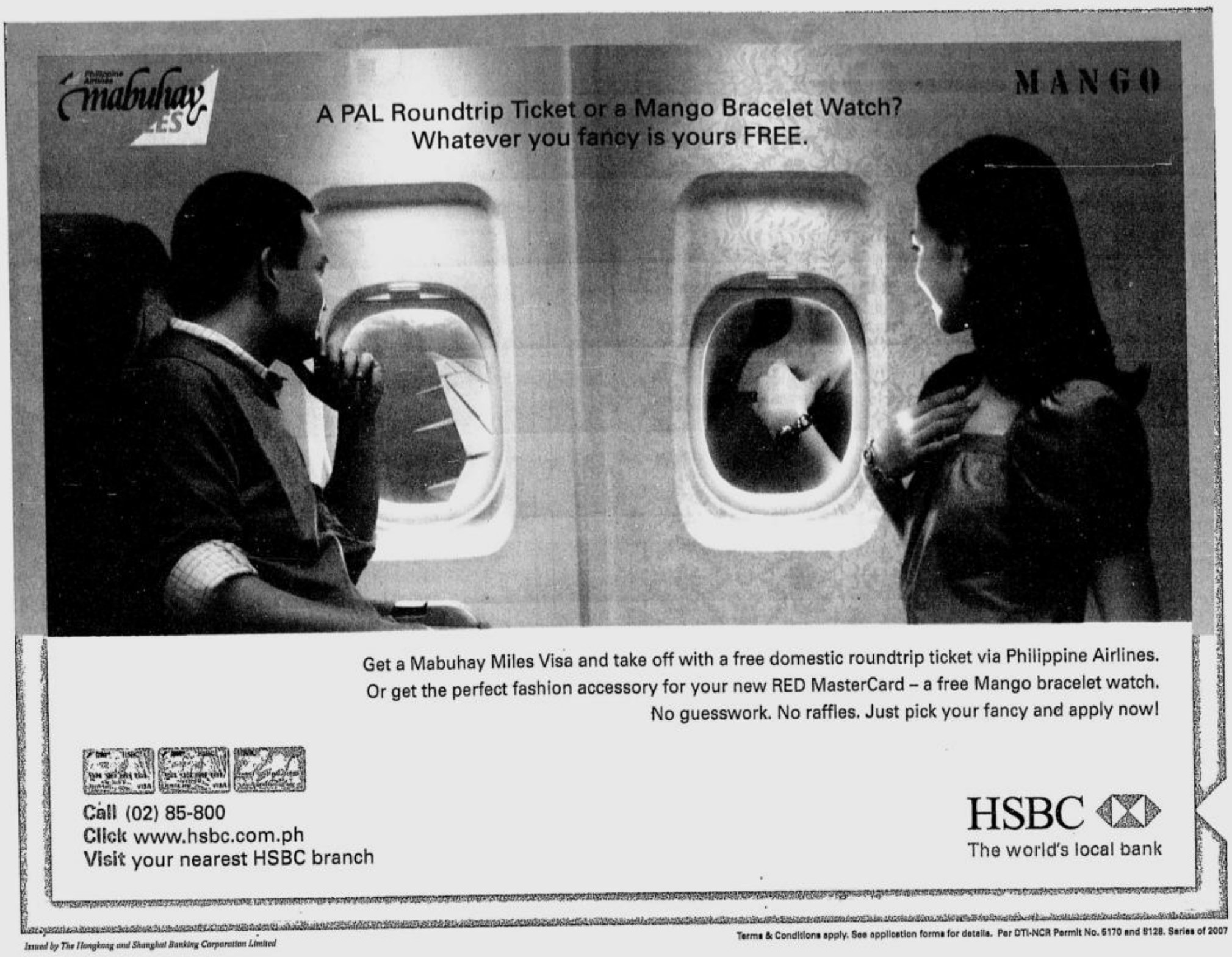

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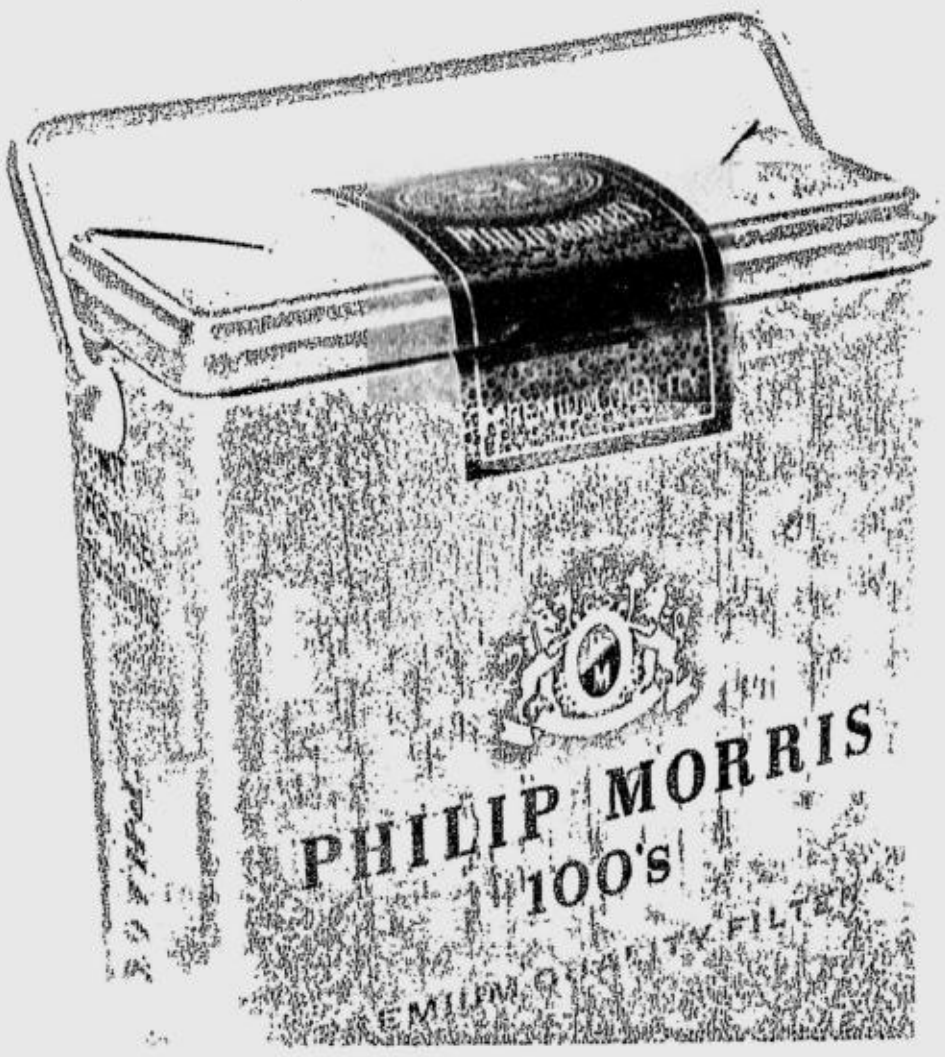

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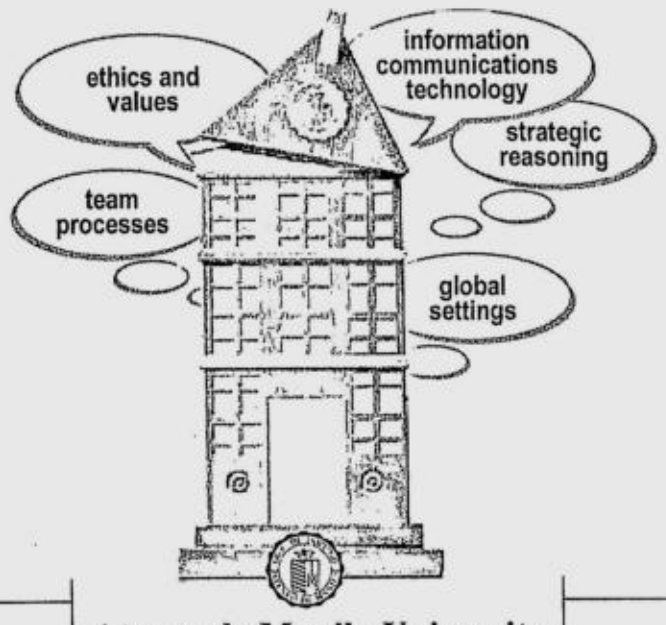

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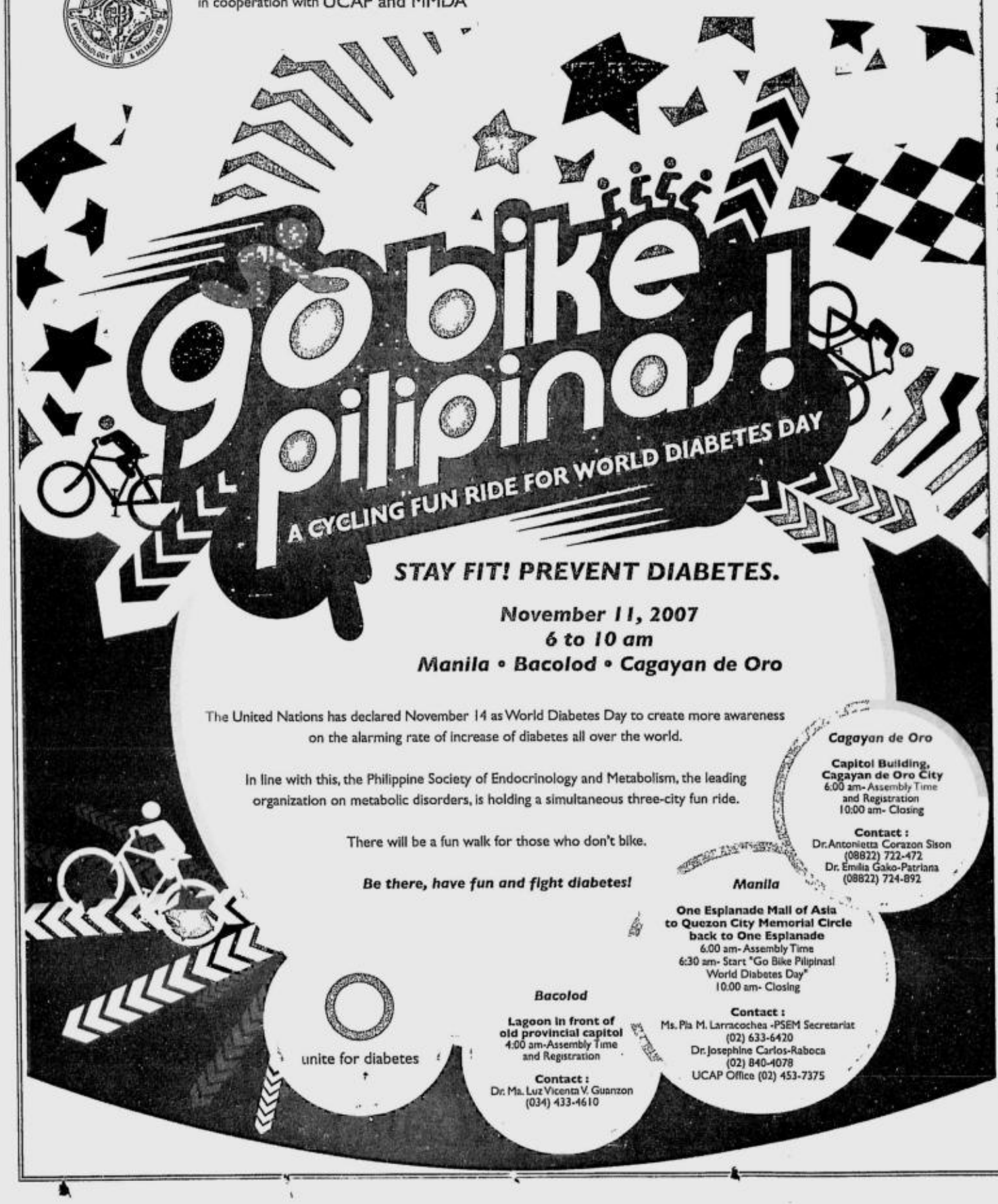

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PSEM is the premier medical organization in the treatment and prevention of endocrine and metabolic disorders which include diabetes mellitus, obesity and the metabolic syndrome. Our organization actively promotes a healthy lifestyle to curb the growing epidemic involving these diseases.

This will highlight the importance of exercise not only as an essential treatment modality but as an effective prevention tool against lifestyle diseases. The United Nations has declared every November 14 World Diabetes Day. To celebrate, PSEM has invited bicycle enthusiasts to take part in the event dubbed, "Go Bike Pilipinas! World Diabetes Day."

Cooperating groups for the activity are the United Cyclists Association of the Philippines, Inc. (UCAP), different independent cycling groups, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), pharmaceutical companies and Accel Sports. Other groups including health associations are expected to join the activity. In Manila, there will be free glucose screening and ECGs for the first 100 participants.

For people who can't cycle, a fun walk will be held and at the end of the event, a human circle will be formed to express that we unite with other groups in the fight against diabetes.

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Erap seeks to quash forfeiture of assets

By TJ Burgonio

PARDONED FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada yesterday sought to quash orders by the Sandiganbayan for him to hand over more than P700 million and a real estate property he previously owned to the government.

The Sandiganbayan issued writs of execution on Oct. 30 and then on Nov. 5 directing the sheriff to forfeit P545,291,000 deposited in the account of the Erap Muslim Foundation and P189,700,000 deposited in the Jose Velarde account.

Also ordered forfeited is the house and lot property in New Manila, Quezon City, called "Boracay mansion."

The sheriff served the writs on Estrada last Tuesday, with the court warning that it would be compelled to put his residence in San Juan and estate in Tanay, Rizal on the auction block if he failed to produce the cash in five days.

In a motion filed by his counsel, Estrada argued that the writs went beyond the dispositive portion of the Sandiganbayan's Oct. 12 decision convicting him for plunder.

In the writs, the court said it could seize Estrada's pieces of property that were disposable and not covered by the execution if he could not pay pay all or part of his obligation.

Estrada has the option to choose which property may be levied. If he does not exercise this option, the sheriff could impose the levy first on personal property, and then real property, if necessary, according to the writs.

"The portions added in said writs of execution pertain to money awards provided for in Sec. 9 of Rule 39, Rules of Court, which is not applicable to forfeiture proceedings," Estrada's lawyers argued.

The additional portions also imposed another penalty on Estrada, they added.

"While the decision of the court includes forfeiture of a specific sum, the Plunder Law limits this only to property derived or traceable to the instruments or proceeds of the crime," they said.

The inclusion of any or all personal or real property of the accused in the writs without any qualification "imposes an additional penalty, and is therefore void," the lawyers said.

The writ was meant to satisfy a Sept. 12 judgment by the Sandiganbayan, which convicted the 70-year-old Estrada for plunder in September and ordered the forfeiture of the accounts and the property.

The judgment was not covered by the executive clemency granted by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Estrada, the anti-graft court said.

The President granted Estrada pardon on Oct. 26 in what both camps claimed was a step toward national reconciliation, six weeks after the ousted leader was convicted for plunder by the Sandiganbayan.

Meralco cuts power rates

By Abigail L. Ho

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS IN THE FRANchise areas of the Manila Electric Co. will enjoy a 34.25 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) reduction in their November electricity bills due to the drop in the company's generation charges and system losses for the month.

Meralco said the decline in generation charges would translate to a 29.98 centavos per kWh reduction in the electricity bills while lower system loss charges would result in a 4.27-centavos-per-kWh savings.

Meralco vice president and utility economics chief Ivanna Dela Peña said generation charge for the November billing month went down to P4.3525 per kWh from P4.6523 per kWh in October.

"Since the restoration of the automatic generation rate adjustment mechanism (Agra) in July, Meralco's generation charge starting August has declined four times in a row, with a cumulative reduction of P1.3239 per kWh," she said in a statement yesterday.

Apart from the generation charge, the company's system loss charges for all customer classes likewise declined.

Meralco attributed the lower charges mainly to the decline in the National Power Corp.'s generation charge. Napocor's average rate dropped by 26.92 centavos per kWh due mainly to the implementation of its eighth generation rate adjustment mechanism (Gram).

The Energy Regulatory Commission-approved Gram brought down Napocor's selling rate by 18.63 centavos per kWh.

Napocor's incremental currency exchange rate adjustment (Icera) likewise dropped by 6.8 centavos per kWh. Its basic time-of-use (TOU) rate also slid by 2.24 centavos per kWh due to the higher proportion of off-peak power that Meralco bought from the state firm.

Meralco's off-peak power purchase from Napocor jumped to 38.14 percent from 37.49 percent in the previous supply month.

Apart from Napocor's lower charges, the prices of power purchased from Meralco's independent power producers likewise went down, contributing to the decline in the distribution utility's generation charge for the November billing month.

Stronger peso offset higher cost

The average rate of Quezon Power Philippines Ltd. dropped by 25.78 centavos per kWh in the October supply month, while power from First Gas Power Corp.'s Sta. Rita plant also declined by 8.61 centavos per kWh, on the average.

The price of power from First Gas' San Lorenzo plant, however, went up due to the scheduled maintenance of one of its generating blocks. This effectively brought the plant's dispatch level to a low 43.8 percent.

The upward pressure of higher fuel costs was offset by the stronger peso, keeping the IPPs' average rate at just around P4 per kWh.

Meralco vice president for corporate communication Elpi Cuna said its IPPs still supplied cheaper power at an overall average rate of P4.0118 per kWh, compared with the P4.6362-per-kWh and the P6.7357-per-kWh prices of power from Napocor and from the wholesale electricity spot market (Wesm), respectively.

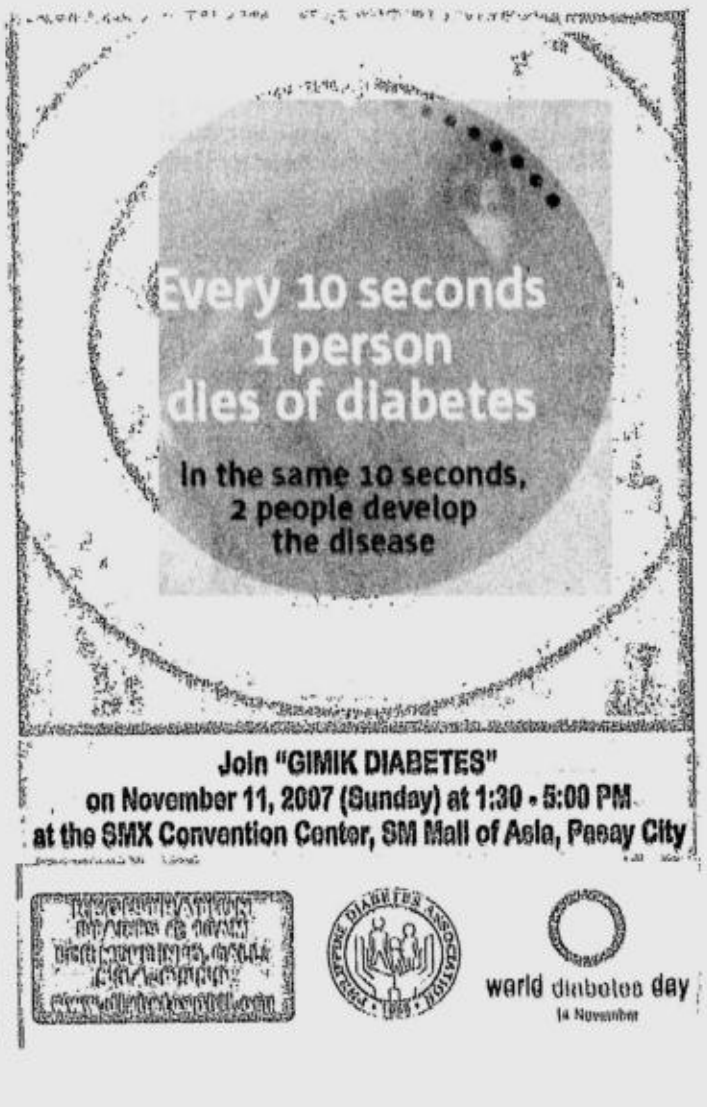
The price of power from the Wesm dropped by 3.05 centavos per kWh compared to the previous month's level.

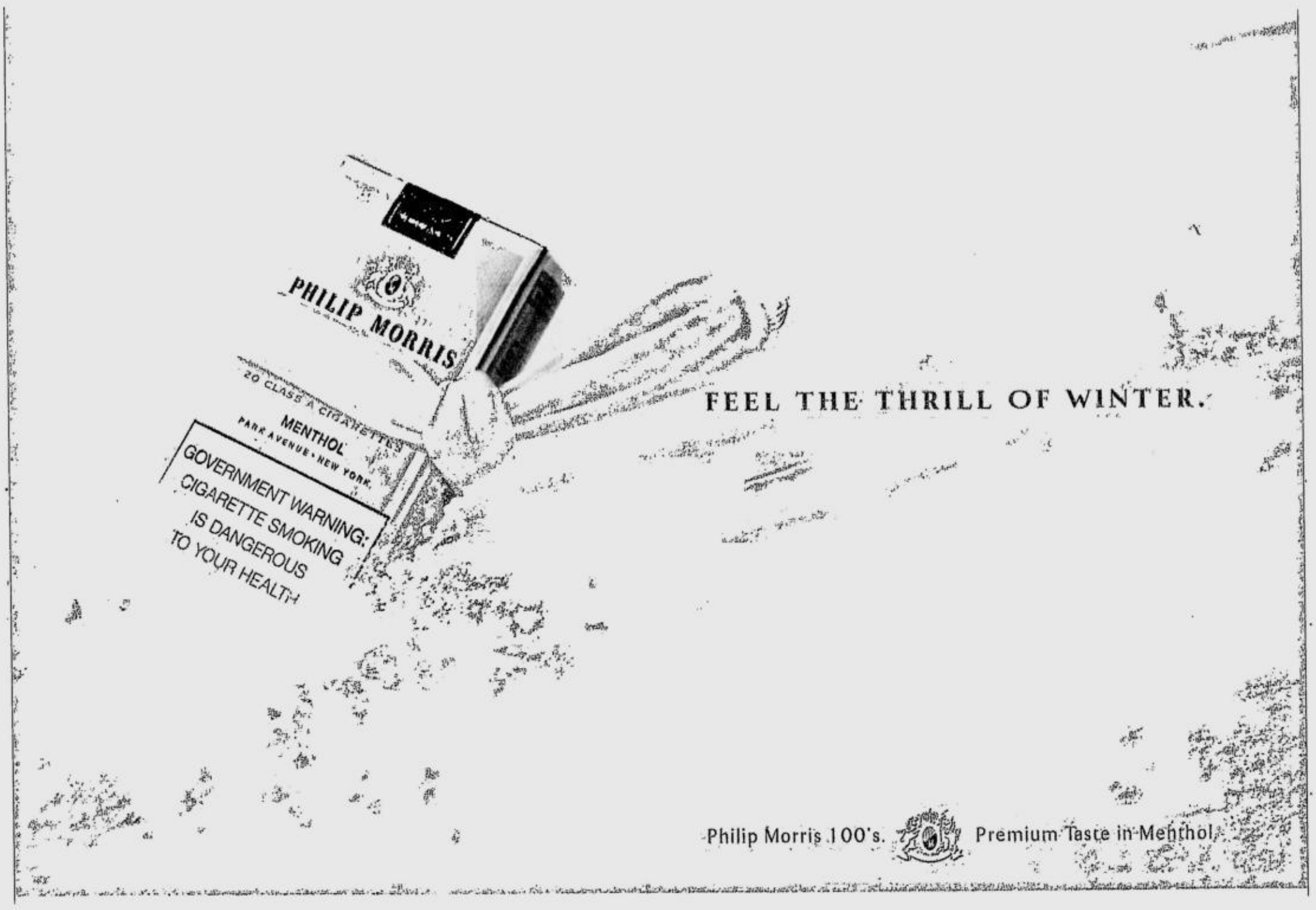
"Although the overall average Wesm price benefited from the negative Gram adjustment from Napocor and the reduction in Napocor's Icera, there were maintenance outages in five major generating units and recurring incidences of transmission line constraints which kept prices at the various nodes relatively high," Cuna explained.

"For the supply month of October, Napocor included in its bill the mandated rate reduction (MRR) for the supply months of August and September, totaling some P131.58 million. This translates to an 18.27-centavos-per kWh reduction for residential customers," he added.

Meralco last month passed on to its residential users the MRR for the January-July supply period, which translated to a rate reduction of 54.11 centavos per kWh.

"Due to the lower MRR this month, the reduction in the rates of most residential customers resulting from lower generation and system loss charges will be trimmed to 4.24 centavos per kWh," Cuna explained.





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Food trucks exempt from Metro ban

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE has teamed up with local governments to fine tune its food lane project and ensure an unhampered 24-hour delivery of farm produce to urban markets, especially during the holidays.

Under the project, accredited farm delivery vehicles with gross weights of 4,500 kilograms and above will be exempted from the truck ban in the expressways.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Salvador Salacup said 192 trucks have so far been accredited by the DA and the Metro Manila Development Authority for the food lane project.

"This project will help cut post-harvest losses and reduce trading layers that shave off profits for farm producers and unduly jack up the cost of basic commodities," Salacup said.

Lower post-harvest losses

In a report to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, Salacup pointed out that consumers would benefit from the food lane project in terms of lower post-harvest losses which eat up to 22 percent of retail costs and lesser trading layers which cover up to 18 percent of food retail prices.

Salacup added that these food lanes would also ensure "faster truck turnaround that will result in the efficient and effective use of transport facilities."

In short, the food lane project could help make perishable agriculture produce more affordable and accessible, he said.

Trucks to be granted access to the food lanes are those carrying perishable farm goods such as fresh and chilled vegetables; fresh and frozen poultry, beef and pork; fresh and frozen fish and other marine products; and fresh fruits and eggs.

Delivery truck owners are, however, required to secure accreditation documents and stickers from the DA and the MMDA authorizing them to use specifically assigned food routes.

Additional measures

Agriculture officials said yesterday that they would meet anew with their counterparts from the Department of the Interior and Local Governments to hammer out additional measures for the smoother implementation of the project.

The DA and the MMDA also plan to hold briefings for local traffic enforcers and the Philippine National Police to inform them about the truck ban exemptions.

A heightened information campaign, the DA said, is necessary following complaints from vegetable producers and traders that some police enforcers have ignored the privileges granted to them under the food lane project.

Salacup said the DA and MMDA have already provided the respective traffic management divisions of the local governments copies of the Metro Manila Council Resolution supporting the food lane project.

Correction

IN THE NOV. 9 ISSUE, a front-page story—"NPC offers to sell 'bastardized' mural on press freedom to PDI"—misstated the location of the mural in the NPC building. The mural is on the fourth—not third—floor.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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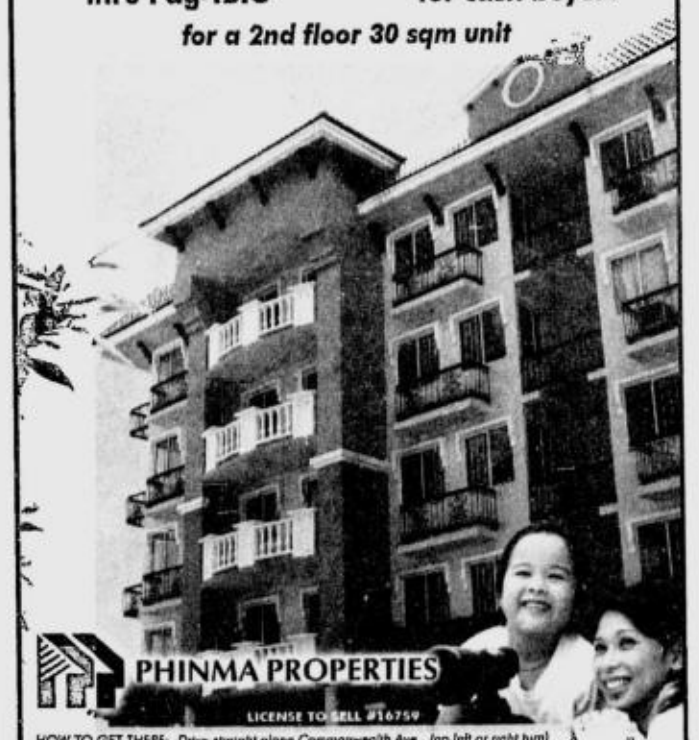

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Asean charter calls for human rights body

A LANDMARK CHARTER drafted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations calls for an agency to review the region's human rights, but upholds a noninterference policy that has shielded notorious violators like Myanmar.

The long-overdue Asean charter is aimed at giving the bloc a legal entity and is being prepared for Southeast Asian leaders when they gather for their annual summit in Singapore on Nov. 20 for the 40th anniversary of the 10-nation bloc's founding.

While espousing human rights and democracy, the draft charter upholds Asean's bedrock principle barring members from interfering in each other's domestic affairs—an edict that Myanmar has invoked to parry criticism of its dismal human rights record.

Visionary document

The draft charter also discourages invasions and coups, and aims to safeguard the diverse region from nuclear arms, other weapons of mass destruction and foreign interference, according to a final draft seen by The Associated Press on Friday.

"It's a visionary and inspiring document," said Filipino diplomat Rosario Manalo, who headed an Asean task force that drafted the charter.

With a legal personality, Asean can sue and be sued, and would turn into a more rules-based organization, Manalo said.

'Shame and blame'

Asean was founded during the Cold War years as an anticommunist coalition, eventually evolving into a trade and political bloc. It consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The most contentious issue in the drafting of its charter has been the inclusion of a provision that calls for the establishment of a human rights body, which was initially opposed by Myanmar.

The military-ruled nation feared such a body could allow scrutiny of rights conditions and could "shame and blame" Asean member countries. It wants the body to serve just as a consultative mechanism, Myanmar's ambassador to Manila, Thaung Tun, has said.

Myanmar apparently dropped its opposition after being convinced it could negotiate limits to the human rights body's powers and objective when Asean diplomats tackle these issues after the charter's signing.

The draft charter said that under the regional bloc's principle of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedom, "Asean shall establish a human rights body."

The rights body would operate in accordance with the "terms of reference" to be set by Asean foreign ministers, according to the 31-page draft document.

The draft charter, which has been watered down to make it acceptable to all Asean members, dropped earlier recommendations to mention sanctions, including possible expulsion, in cases of serious breaches of the covenant by member countries.

The draft states that any such breaches would be referred to Asean heads of state "for decision."

Source of embarrassment

Burma has become a source of embarrassment to Asean, largely because the country's government has failed to fulfill promises to restore democracy and free political prisoners, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Even fellow Asean members condemned the junta's recent bloody crackdown on prodemocracy protesters that included tens of thousands of Buddhist monks.

The charter calls for the continued observance of a 10-year-old treaty banning nuclear weapons in Southeast Asia and prohibits "all other weapons of mass destruction."

It renounces aggression and threats of force. Members would be prohibited from backing any policy or activity that would threaten a country's sovereignty and political and economic stability.

It also calls for adherence to "the principles of democracy and constitutional government," which replaced a proposed provision that outrightly banned coup attempts. *AP*

Even smokers favor picture warnings

IT IS NOT ONLY THE CRY OF antismoking groups.

Now, a local survey shows that even majority of the smokers in the Philippines want picture-based health warnings clearly posted in the packaging of local cigarettes.

An unpublished survey done by the Philippine College of Chest Physicians for the September-October period showed that over 90% of Filipino smokers surveyed want picture-based warnings on the cigarette packs, instead of the usual textual-based ones.

The study, said antismoking group Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Alliance, Philippines (FCAP), shows that even smokers know how effective picture-based warnings could be.

Dr. David Hammond, a World Health Organization (WHO) consultant on the drafting of the implementing guidelines on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), said that most of the smokers already want to quit and that graphic warnings on cigarette labels help them end their addictions.

Textual-based warnings, on the other hand, he said, do not tell smokers anything new. But graphic pictures of the dangers of smoking serve as "constant vivid reminders" of actual smoking risks.

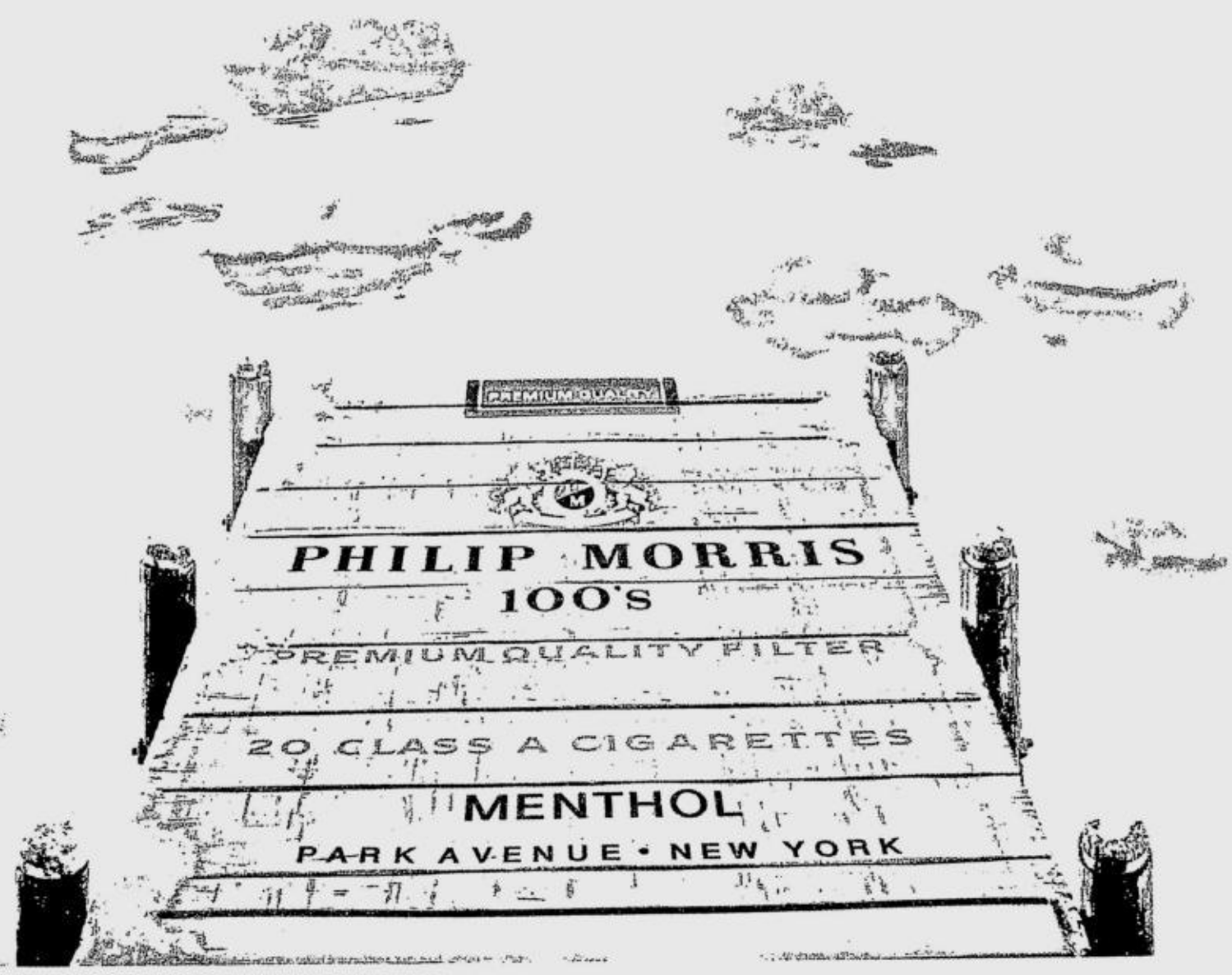
"This is really the more effective way of doing it. They could understand the risk with more graphic warnings. They will know how painful and how gross it could be," said Hammond.

Hammond, a Canadian-based psychologist, said that even in Canada, 80% of smokers prefer that cigarette labels feature more graphic health warnings. He said, most smokers also know that this manner would be more effective to deter their young children against the bad habit.

"This is really the popular measure now," said Hammond.

Hammond said graphic health warnings in countries like Canada, Australia, and Thailand now feature health risks related to smoking like mouth cancer, lung cancer, impotence, and infant deaths. They also feature contact numbers that smokers may call if they need help to quit their addiction.

Hammond explained that picture-based health warnings are understood universally even by those who cannot read nor write. Also, graphic warnings can be understood well in a country with various dialects, he said. *Beverly T. Natividad*



GMA: I will step down, but only in 2010

REBUFFING HER CRITICS' RENEWED calls for her to resign, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared she will step down only after the elections in 2010 even as she vowed to defeat poverty and insurgency in the country during the remainder of her term.

"The people can be assured that we lead with a steady hand to guide the nation to a new election in 2010 and new leadership for the country," she said at an antipoverty summit in Borongan, Eastern Samar.

Ms Arroyo also vowed to "do everything in my power to bring rice to those who need it most" following criticisms her six-year administration has failed to break the cycle of poverty in the country.

"Through the end of my term, we aim to provide increased political stability, continued economic growth and sustainable peace and order. We will not let the nation slip into election-year instability," said Ms Arroyo.

To lift the poor from poverty, the government will continue to channel massive investments in infrastructure, healthcare, better housing and improved social justice, she said.

"Our goal is to leave this nation stronger and more stable, to provide even more jobs and build more and better schools," the President said.

Ms Arroyo was in Borongan, the capital of Eastern Samar, to attend the commemorative rites marking the 42nd foundation day of the province and address the provincial antipoverty summit.

Ms Arroyo congratulated Gov. Ben Evardone and the province's officials for the "dramatic reduction" in poverty in Eastern Samar, and for defeating the communist insurgency with the dismantling of several guerrilla fronts.

She thanked Samareños for their support when she ran for senator in 1992 and President in 2004.

She noted that Eastern Samar became a separate province in 1965 during the incumbency of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

Ms Arroyo later flew to Tacloban City in Leyte province to attend the closing program of a regional peace and security assembly.

In Tacloban, she repeated the theme of her determination to see a politically stable country when she steps down in 2010.

"Through the end of my term, we aim to provide increased political stability, continued economic growth and sustainable peace and order," she said in her speech. *Michael Lim Ubac*

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GLORIETTA BLAST PROBE

Cops want Trillanes witness

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE advised Sen. Antonio Trillanes yesterday to turn over to the police his alleged witness to the explosion which ripped through the Glorietta 2 mall on Oct. 19.

PNP Deputy Spokesperson Supt. Rodel Sermonia told reporters in Camp Crame that the PNP was the only agency mandated by law to investigate the incident and file charges suspects were found to be behind the explosion.

Trillanes, a vocal critic of the Arroyo administration, is detained at the Marines compound inside Fort Bonifacio on coup charges in connection with the 2003 "Oakwood mutiny." He had charged that National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and Armed Forces Chief Hermogenes Esperon were involved in the blast which killed 11 people and injured hundreds.

Earlier this week, the alleged witness, Ronald Ramos alias Abdul Rakman, had implicated Gonzales to the blast in a TV interview.

"He (Trillanes) should endorse to us his witness. We won't turn away any witness with any credible information on the incident," Sermonia said.

He added that the investigation would hit a breakthrough if the police were given access to any witness or evidence. "We cannot act on something without solid facts. The only agency mandated to investigate the incident is the PNP."

Earlier, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Geary Barias also challenged Trillanes and his witness to come up with "something more concrete."

Ramos had said Gonzales directed him and other "intelligence agents" to look for "weak points" at the Glorietta mall.

The PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) has been tasked to talk to Trillanes regarding the senator's claim. But Trillanes refused to cooperate with the police.

Sermonia said the PNP's investigation was free from politics and that probers would pursue any lead.

Australian Federal Elections 2007

The Australian Prime Minister announced that the Federal Election will take place on Saturday 24th November 2007. For more information please visit the Australian Electoral Commission website, www.aec.gov.au and the Smartraveller website, www.smartraveller.gov.au, for the latest travel bulletin on the Australian Federal Election.

The Australian Embassy will be open for pre-poll voting during the hours of 8.30am-4.30pm, Monday-Friday from 12-23 November and Election Saturday, 24 November 2007 from 8.30am-4.30pm. The Embassy is located at 23rd Floor of the RCBC Plaza, Tower 2, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. We encourage you to make use of the pre-polling times to avoid queues on Saturday. For further updates, please visit the Australian Embassy Manila website at http://www.philippines.embassy.gov.au/

Immigration agents capture suspected Palestinian militant

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A SUSPECTED MEMBER OF A PALESTINIAN militant group was arrested by agents of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) in Tawi-Tawi last week.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan yesterday said that Yussof Umar Animoura or Yusop Omar, 41, has been illegally entering and leaving the country for the past several years.

"I dispatched our operatives to arrest him after we received intelligence information that he had been illegally staying in the Philippines and that he is suspected of involvement in terrorism," said Libanan.

Libanan said Animoura was arrested last Nov. 1 by joint operatives of the BI, the military and police in Tawi-Tawi pursuant to his mission order.

The immigration chief disclosed that Animoura had earlier confessed his involvement in the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

However, authorities are investigating his possible link to the radical Palestinian group Hamas or Al Qaida-linked groups operating in Mindanao.

"Animoura might also be a sleeper for a terror group as he had been illegally staying in the Philippines since 1995 when he last entered the country surreptitiously via the back door from Sabah, Malaysia,"

Libanan said that Animoura would be deported for violating the country's immigration laws and would be placed on the watchlist of undesirable aliens.

According to BI technical assistant for intelligence Victor Boco, the Egyptian-born Animoura had admitted during interrogation that he was an active PLO member from 1982 to 1984.

But Animoura denied being a member of Hamas or any terrorist organization operating in the country.

Animoura also confessed that he had undergone combat training and radio communications operations in Lebanon.

Boco said military intelligence agents spotted Animoura inside Camp Abubakar in 2000 before it was attacked and taken over by government troops.

After the camp was overran, Animoura allegedly relocated to Bongao, Tawi-Tawi and later to Sibutu town where he met and married his present Filipino wife. He then engaged in seaweed farming and taught Islamic lessons to the native folk, Boco said.

But in his debriefing, Animoura claimed that he first entered the Philippines in 1986 and had failed to enroll at the Far Eastern University for lack of a student visa.

"He recalled having stayed at the Teachers' Village in Quezon City and at the Islamic Center in Quiapo, Manila in 1988 and 1989," Boco said.

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'Shabu' ingredients seized

By Margaux C. Ortiz

EIGHT DRUMS OF illegally imported acetone and toluene which can be used to produce the illegal drug methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu), were recently seized by agents of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) at the Port of Manila.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the chemicals, which when mixed could have processed up to P700 million worth of shabu, were discovered after a routine X-ray examination.

"It was the first time that the X-rays were able to detect the presence of illegal drugs in a shipment since it was first used in operations in May this year," Morales said in a press conference yesterday.

The NUCTECH X-ray machines were acquired from China through a government loan intended to be used to put the BOC at par with other Customs organizations in the world.

MARINE COLONEL Ariel Querubin (center) leads the walkout of what the accused officers called "sham proceedings" in Camp Capinpin, Rizal. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AFP officers walk out of court-martial

By Nikko Dizon

CAMP CAPINPIN, TANAY, RIZAL—THE 28 Marine and Scout Ranger officers accused of leading the February 2006 coup attempt walked out yesterday of a general court martial hearing, saying they could no longer take part in "sham proceedings."

The officers' lawyers insisted that the hearings be deferred until Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. signed the pre-trial advise (PTA), supposed to be the basis for the court-martial proceedings.

However, panel president Maj. Gen. Jogy Leo Fojas denied all the lawyers' motions to suspend the proceedings.

Following the walkout, members of the court-martial panel took their oath in the presence of the Trial Judge Advocate and the military prosecutors, paving the way for the arraignment of the officers who have been detained at a high security Army stockade here for more than a year.

"We are asking that Gen. Esperon sign the PTA because this is the basis for our clients' detention and trial because the pre-trial investigation (PTI) exonerated them. Without his signature, we cannot verify if this is indeed the PTA used against our clients," lawyer Trixie Cruz-Angeles told reporters.

Using this argument, she told the court-martial panel that her client, Scout Ranger Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, should be released.

The defense lawyers would not accept the contention of the military prosecutor, Col. Feliciano Loy, that Esperon's memorandum signed on Nov. 17 last year convening the general court-martial effectively approved both the PTI and the PTA.

Angeles said that the court-martial was using a "defective" charge sheet because the military prosecutors also failed to attach a copy of the PTA to it, as required by the manual on court-martial.

Earlier at the hearing, lawyer Alex Avisado, counsel for Scout Rangers Maj. Jason Aquino and Capt. Isagani Criste, told the court-martial panel that the unsigned PTA had led to a "deadlock" in the proceedings.

Lawyer Frank Chavez, counsel for former Marine commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, described the unsigned PTA as "171 sheets of nothing, of scraps of paper."

Col. Marian Aleido, a panel member, directed Loy to present a "written action of (Esperon) on whether he had approved or disapproved" the PTA.

After more than an hour of legal wrangling over the unsigned PTA, Chavez told the panel that he "cannot take part in this sham proceedings."

"The accused are not legally charged. They have the right to know (the accusations)," Chavez said.

Then he left, followed by the other defense lawyers who each reiterated their call to suspend the proceedings. The court-martial excused them from the hearing.

Search body for Comelec formed

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday created a selection committee to screen candidates for the next chair of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Instead of immediately naming a replacement for resigned Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., President Arroyo wants candidates for the post to pass through a selection process ostensibly to avert a controversy similar to that generated by her recent appointment of Iligan Judge Moslemen Macarambon to the poll body.

The current chair of the Palace search and screening committee, Bernardino Abes, will head the committee, with Jose Concepcion, Carmen Pedrosa, Vicente Jayme and Democrito Mendoza as members.

According to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the committee "shall screen potential candidates with the end view of submitting to the Office of the President for its consideration a short list of qualified candidates."

But Ms Arroyo directed the committee to screen, not to rate according to their qualifications, those to be included in the short list.

The President expects "a short list of qualified candidates without ranking" to be submitted not later than December 15.

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In any event, the Company is requesting all shareholders and subscribers to submit satisfactory proof of shareholdings.

(Sgd.) GILBERT I. NOLASCO
Corporate Secretary

(PDI - Nov. 10, 2007)

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 10, 2007
31st Week in Ordinary Time
Leo the Great

1st Reading: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27
Gospel: Luke 16:9-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "And so I tell you: use filthy money to make friends for yourselves, so that when it fails, these people may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever can be trusted in little things can also be trusted in great ones; whoever is dishonest in slight matters will also be dishonest in greater ones. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling filthy money, who could entrust you with true wealth? And if you have not been trustworthy with things which are not really yours, who will give you the wealth which is your own?

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he does not like the one and is fond of the other, or he regards one highly and the other with contempt. You cannot give yourself both to God and to Money."

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and sneered at Jesus. He said to them, "You do your best to be considered righteous by people. But God knows the heart, and what rises high among humans is loathed by God."

Commentary

Prisca and Aquila (wife and husband) are leaders in the church in Rome who serve and have risked their lives for Paul and many others. Paul greets the workers, the members of the Body of Christ in Rome, old Christians and new ones, those who are at liberty still to preach and those in prison. And the letter contains personal greetings from the one who pens it. And always it begins with praise of God who has given us Jesus, the Word made flesh who reveals the Father in the Spirit so that we might become ever more human and holy.

And Jesus tells us to make friends—either in the world, or in the Body of Christ—so that we may rely on one another and come to one another when we are in need. What master do we actually serve—God or the world we are making for ourselves, for our families, and for our friends? Does our small world and its members serve God and God's kingdom of justice for all where there are no poor among us because we are trustworthy and obedient to God's Word? It is high time we put our lives in order this year of the Lord.

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'Ate Vicky' delivered on Mariannet's wishes

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

"UNIMAGINABLY PAINFUL AND INFURIATING," was how Vicky Morales, host of the GMA 7 reality show "Wish Ko Lang," described the loss of Magdalena and Isabelo Amper after 12-year-old daughter Mariannet committed suicide.

"It's too much reality, too soon for children," Morales told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday. "Children should be shielded from the harsh facts of life. Perhaps poverty was all too real for Mariannet."

It's also frustrating, she clarified, because "if government funds were better allocated, perhaps her death could have been prevented. It's a sad commentary."

Mariannet's diary and an unsent letter to "Wish Ko Lang" were found tucked under her pillows.

In the letter addressed to "Ate Vicky," Mariannet wished for a bicycle, a school bag and jobs for her parents.

Upon learning of the girl's passing, Morales and her show's production team flew to the Ampers' hometown of Davao City on Thursday.

They stayed in Davao for a day to tape an episode of the show to be aired today.

"Wish Ko Lang" dubbed today's episode as a "final tribute to Mariannet."

"It's painful to imagine that a 12-year-old can think of this," Morales said in a statement released by GMA 7. "When I was young, all I worried about was my homework and what to eat for merienda."

As part of the show's tribute, Mariannet's wishes were granted. The show gave her family 11 goats, a sari-sari store package, school supplies and a bicycle.

The show's concept is to fulfill the wishes of letter-senders who often belong to marginalized sectors.

Mariannet's father Isabelo told Morales: "Her wishes were granted, but she's gone."

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Morales said: "We are just a simple show with a modest budget. We cannot fulfill the wish of all our letter-senders."

She expressed concern because people now run to media, instead of the government for help.

"We are not government. We are not the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) or the PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office). If only government funds were better allocated," she said.

Morales has her own wish, though. She hopes that other people, young or old, would not imitate what Mariannet did because it was extremely "difficult" for the girl's family.

"I had serious apprehensions about doing this episode because I don't want people to think that committing suicide is an express lane to get your wishes granted. We don't want to send the wrong signal because Mariannet's passing caused more problems to her family," she said.

In interviews with the Amper family, Morales learned of the bond between Mariannet and her 11-year-old brother Reynald.

Reynald told Morales: "She shares what she has, even if she only has a peso, she buys things for me. I love her a lot. I don't know why she did that. Why did she leave me?"

"Reynald was the one who discovered his sister's body," Morales said. "He fainted after seeing her. I am worried about him. He needs counseling. It caused a lot of trauma to the family."

Mariannet's mother Magdalena was just as grief-stricken as Reynald. She told Morales: "It's hard to accept. I never thought she could do that."

Morales, who wrote the script of today's episode, said: "Mariannet had put so much hope in us. We don't want to let her down."

Mariannet burial

From page A1

Theology House, said the new Code of the Canon Law, promulgated in 1983, does not explicitly deny a Catholic funeral to people who committed suicide.

In the case of Mariannet, "I do not see any reason or justification for prohibiting the observation of Catholic funeral rites," Ayuban said in a phone interview yesterday.

While suicide is and always will be objectively and gravely wrong, the Catholic Church now considers the psychological disturbances that may influence a suicide—circumstances that mitigate personal culpability, Ayuban said, citing Catechism No. 2282.

Up to the Archbishop

Ampong, St. Francis parish priest, said he found it difficult to act on the request of Mariannet's family. He said only Archbishop Fernando Capalla, who is in Manila for a week now, can actually decide on the matter.

"*Mananghid sa ta kay* Archbishop Capalla. *Ug misahan man gud nato, basig makaingon ang mga tawo nga OK lang diay ang mag-suicide...pero pangitaan nato na ug paagi* (We still have to ask (Davao) Archbishop Capalla. If we say Mass for her, some people might think that it's OK to commit suicide... we will try to look for a way)," Ampong told the family.

Ampong said there was another option: The final blessing of the dead could be done in a chapel but not in a church.

Unlike a funeral Mass, blessing of the dead does not require the exposure of the Holy Eucharist or the giving of Holy Communion.

The INQUIRER yesterday tried but failed to reach Capalla, who had turned off his cell phone, but was able to reach Lingayen Archbishop Oscar Cruz, another canon law expert. Cruz said that in recent years, Church law has changed.

"After years of study, the Church realized that people who commit suicide are not themselves, therefore, they are not deliberately committing a mortal sin against God."

No rites for manifest sinners

For his part, Ayuban said the following cannot be granted ecclesiastical funerals, according to Canon Law;

- Abortionists or murderers who never showed even the simplest signs of repentance.
- Notorious apostates, heretics and schismatics (those who rejected Christian faith).
- Those who chose cremation for reasons contrary to Christian faith (like the refusal to believe in resurrection).
- Other manifest sinners who, if granted ecclesiastical funerals, would cause public scandal among the faithful.

Ayuban stressed that a simple sign of repentance, like holding a religious symbol, before dying would allow a person to have a Catholic burial.

"This is because the Church puts the highest importance on the salvation of a person," he said.

Canon 1184

The Catholic web site www.zenith.org also said that the Canon Law no longer lists suicide as a reason for the Church to deny someone of funeral rites.

Fr. Edward McNamara, professor of liturgy at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical University, who answered a query about suicide on the website, said Canon 1184 only prohibits funeral rites on a "notorious apostate, heretic or schismatic; those who requested cremation for motives contrary to the Christian faith; and manifest sinners to whom a church funeral cannot be granted without causing public scandal to the faithful."

"These restrictions apply only if there has been no sign of repentance before death," McNamara said adding that "the local bishop weighs any doubtful cases and in practice, a prudent priest should always consult with the bishop before denying a funeral Mass."

McNamara explained that an unrepentant sinner is someone who committed suicide following another act of grave crime like murder.

A good girl

Marisol, Mariannet's eldest sister, said that if the Catholic Church denies her sister the final funeral rites, they would rather not have her remains blessed in the chapel.

"My sister did not commit any grave act of murder except that she decided to end her own life. We are praying that the Catholic Church will reconsider; after all, she was a good child and she did not commit anything bad against others," Marisol said.

But even Mariannet's Bible teacher expressed doubts over the possibility that the Church would give the 12-year-old girl funeral rites. Based on past experience, she said, those who committed suicide were always refused funeral rites.

"I would be happy if the Catholic Church would give in to the [family's] request but the Church has its own policy. I cannot do anything except to follow it," said Aurora Lariosa, the community head who saw how Mariannet actively participated in every Church activity in the village.

Marisol said her family remains hopeful that the Church will be more lenient with her sister's case.

"Maybe they will understand. She's just a girl who snapped because of our condition in life... she was not a bad person," she said.

Job offers, wishes come true

Meanwhile, more and more people have expressed their willingness to help the family of Mariannet. A number have offered the girl's father, Isabelo, employment.

Isabelo said he was grateful and welcomed the work opportunities.

A woman and her American husband have offered Isabelo a job as caretaker for a store in Manila. Another businessman has offered him work as a utility man.

In her diary, Mariannet wrote about her dream for her father and mother to have jobs. She also wished for a pair of new shoes and a bicycle, which were granted by the GMA 7's "Wish Ko Lang" TV program, along with 11 goats.

The program also gave the Ampers a "*sari-sari* store" showcase.

The family also received one-and-a-half sacks of

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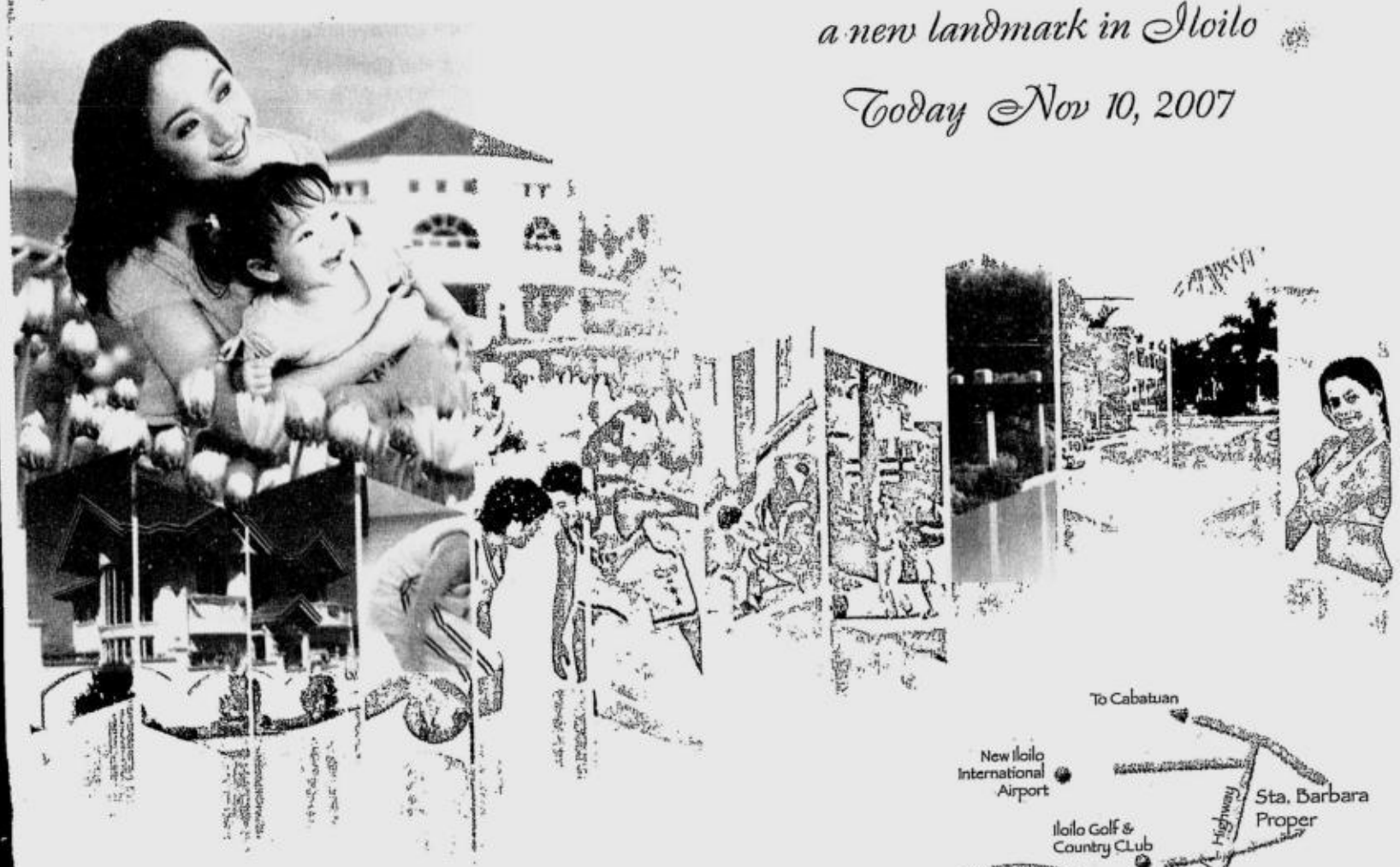

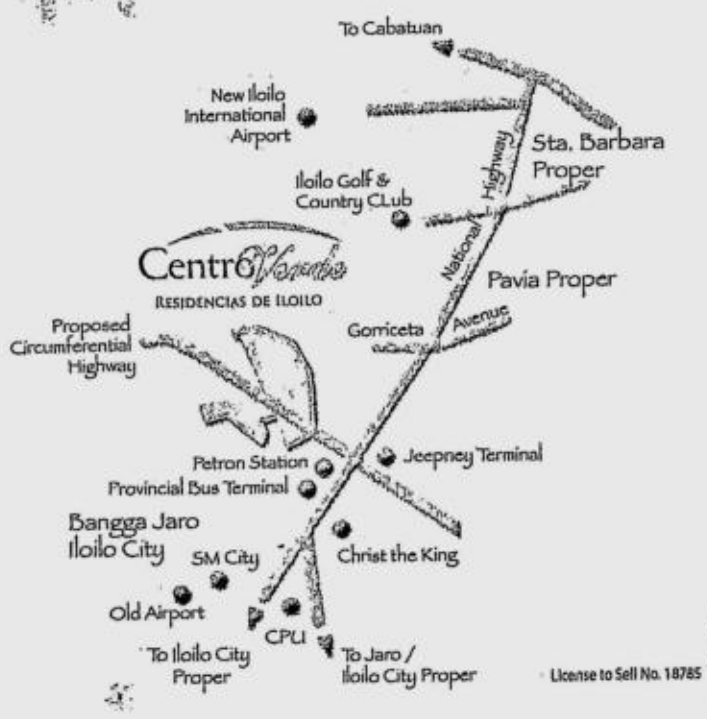

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today; Church in dilemma

A SYMBOL: In death, Mariannet lives on as the embodiment of everything that's not right in the country. DENNIS JAY SANTOS

rice from city councilors, P5,000 cash from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which shouldered the funeral expenses.

UN visit

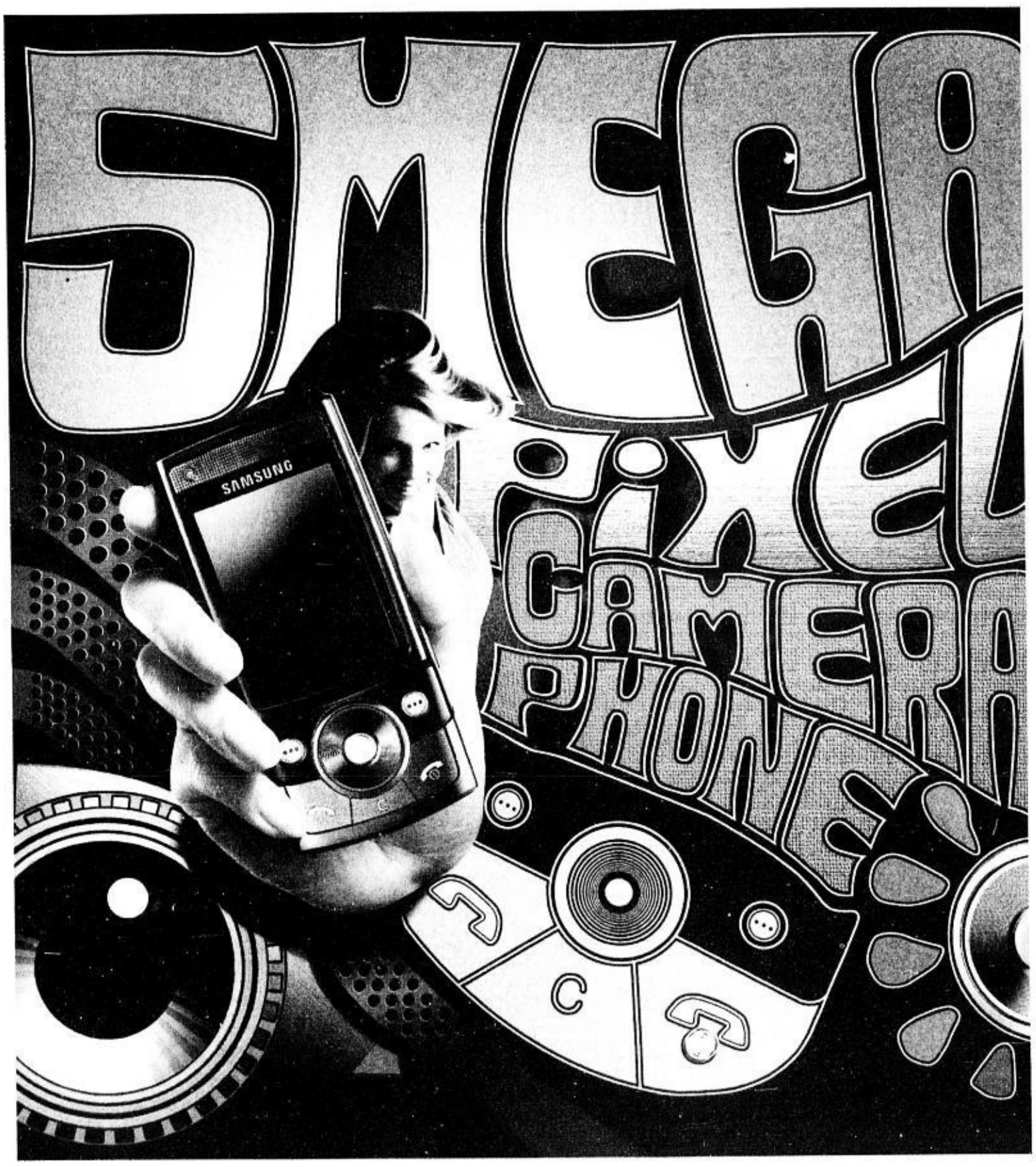
Officials of the UN Millennium Campaign said yesterday the suicide of a poor 12-year-old girl in Davao City was a reminder to the group to double its efforts in rooting out poverty in the country.

"It sends a cruel reminder that we need to redouble our efforts, move twice as fast," said Salil Shetty, UN Millennium Campaign director, during a program honoring its local partners.

The Millennium Campaign plans to work with the UN in the Philippines to build on the gains made by the campaign through a longer term advocacy toward alleviating poverty and meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

Despite this incident, Nileema Noble, UN Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Program Resident Representative, said the country was on track on meeting its goal of reducing poverty by half by 2015. *With reports from Beverly T. Natividad, TJ Burgonio in Manila and Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

NAME SPELLED WRONG but students of the University of the Philippines do right by Mariannet Amper as they rally on Friday to call attention to the plight of the country's poorest of the poor. REM ZAMORA



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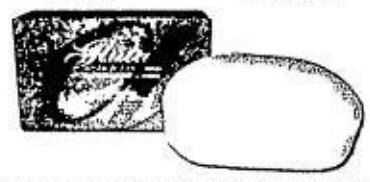

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OPINION

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Poverty's saint

EDITORIAL

BY HANGING HERSELF A DAY AFTER ALL SAINTS' Day, 12-year-old Mariannet Amper of Davao City has become the embodiment of the Filipinos' worst nightmare, a saint of poverty for a nation that continues to deny the blighted reality of its impoverishment.

It is said that Mariannet killed herself out of quiet desperation over her school absences and her inability to catch up with school work. She had been unable to attend her classes regularly because her father was jobless and could not give her the money to travel to school. She was in the sixth grade and eager to catch up so as to finish her elementary education. She had asked him for P100 to finish a school project, but he didn't have the money. So he asked for an advance payment for a construction work he was set to do, hoping to give the money to his daughter. But it was too late. He found Mariannet hanging by the ceiling of their shanty, with a nylon rope around her neck. It was All Souls' Day.

The suicide spoils whatever goodwill the Arroyo administration had sought to generate from the finding of the most recent Social Weather Stations survey: that fewer Filipinos rated themselves poor this year. The survey showed that self-rated poverty had been at the relatively low range of 47 to 53 percent since September 2006, down six percentage points from 55 to 59 percent in December 2005-June 2006.

Elated by the finding and obviously seizing on this piece of good news as an occasion to drumbeat her economic accomplishments, President Macapagal-Arroyo quickly called for an "anti-poverty" summit at Manila Hotel. At the meeting, she directed the "Hunger Task Force" to step up the anti-poverty campaign, and instructed the budget department to release P1 billion for the effort.

But the death of Mariannet cut short the administration's merriment. The positive statistics have been disregarded, if not belied by the suicide of a young girl who, in her diary entries, intimated her frustration and despair over her family's seemingly irredeemable poverty.

Mariannet's diary is similar to Anne Frank's: both prefigured the inexorability of doom—Anne's, the holocaust of the gas chambers; Mariannet's, the holocaust of poverty.

But because her death happened in the era of "infotainment," Mariannet's case risks being banalized by melodrama-prone television. In fact, her anguish and frustration appear to have been abetted by TV programs that cater to the desperate dreams of the poor, granting them their wishes—except that the grant is just a drop in the bucket amid an ocean of despair, thereby deepening the despondency of those whose wishes can't be accommodated within cruel broadcast air time and by insensitive marketing gimmickry.

But perhaps, the far worse infotainment would be the government's grabbing hold of the slimmest of developments barely indicating economic recovery and using these to trumpet its achievements, and holding these out as herald of an impending salvation for the millions of poor Filipinos. The herald, of course, does not materialize; it is mere thunder rather than substance, and the poor are left holding wretched stalks of disappointment. For others like Mariannet, they're left hanging by the rope around their necks. The rope is despair's hangman, coiled tight and mercilessly by crushing poverty.

The suicide risks making cynics of us all. But cynicism is the other face of despair, and we cannot surrender to it. (A Malacañang official has already described the girl's death as an "isolated" instance. The opposition may conveniently use it as dark grist for the angry mill of political hate and one-upmanship.) Mariannet's death should show that poverty in the countryside has largely been fostered by a culture of corruption and mismanagement. The culture is best reflected in the government's lopsided, and even twisted and wasteful, allocation of resources. It is damning, for instance, that the Arroyo administration has been accused of contracting overpriced multimillion-peso projects and giving out cash baskets to congressmen and local officials, while legislators hem and haw over the abolition of their pork barrel. Never mind that the pork barrel (euphemistically called "countryside development fund") and Malacañang's basket of cash goodies (described as "assistance for the barangays") don't seem to have made a dent on poverty in the countryside.

Corruption and mismanagement have made government the key perpetuator of poverty. Unless the Filipino nation finally realized this, there will be more Mariannets and martyrs of poverty.

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The culture of cash politics

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WHAT HAS DRAWN SUSTAINED PUBLIC ATtention to the recent distribution of cash gifts to congressmen and local executives is not so much that unaccounted money was given to politicians, but that it was done on such a scandalous scale and right in the presidential palace itself. No one believes this can happen without the knowledge or permission of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is known to micro-manage things.

As a sociologist, what I find truly remarkable about this is that it could easily have passed on as a non-event. If Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio had not spoken to media, no one among the recipients would have made a big fuss about it. Yet, even the much admired governor's first statements about the money were quite naïve. They suggested an initial readiness to keep the money so long as it was not in exchange for anything and was to be used for social projects in the province.

It is exactly how our culture assimilates and neutralizes bribery. The clever briber never explicitly asks for anything in exchange. But the whole context in which the act is performed leaves no doubt about the briber's intention. The demands of conscience or face, if they should arise at all, are quickly eased because the bribe is represented as a small gift, a token, a contribution to one's favorite charity, or assistance to one's constituency. Bribing etiquette typically requires that some distance—in time or space—be placed between the principal and the receiver. This is to avoid any possible awkwardness.

In this regard, the cash-giving in Malacañang last Oct. 11 was extraordinary. It was done right at the official residence of the President, and immediately after the breakfast and lunch meetings hosted by Ms Arroyo, at which the main item for discussion was the filing of another impeachment complaint against her. It showed an absolute disregard not only for the law, but also for political form. Without her intending it, it served to dramatize the contempt with which Ms Arroyo regards her own allies.

Our politicians do not seem at all offended by this treatment. Indeed they welcome it, believing it to be an integral part of our politics. Maybe they are not far off the mark in this belief. An INQUIRER item the other day reported former Maguindanao Rep. Guimid Matalam as saying that being given gifts, including cash allowances, was not unusual even in the first post-martial law Congress of which he was a member. "Matalam said aside from funds from Malacañang, congressmen also received 'lobby gifts' from some company executives." I do not doubt this.

It may well be that the only thing that distinguishes the Arroyo presidency from any other is the manner in which cash-giving has become so much a part of the standard operating procedure of her office. No other administration has been known to resort to buying political favors so literally, as brazenly, and as routinely as Ms Arroyo's. If this is what it takes to awaken us to the glaring discrepancy between the laws we profess and the dirty practices by which we conduct our national life, then surely we have her to thank.

In our quest for reform, we tend to ignore the realities that constrain our politicians and our electorate to behave in particular ways. We are engrossed in the easy moralism that permits us to express our disgust for the failings of our leaders in government. We cling to the belief that if only we can rid the nation of the present bunch of politicians, the country will surely be better. I think we forget that our leaders, like many of our voters, are no more than actors in a political stage governed by the hidden scripts of social inequality and dominance. We expect great things when we replace old actors with new ones, unaware that without a fundamental revision of the script, the performance will not be very different.

That script, the one that animates what we call traditional politics, provides not for the roles of government and opposition, as in the modern stage, but only for a set of patron and client roles. Under its terms, political power in our society is to be contested not by alternating majorities and minorities, but by a very small ruling class. Unchallenged in its dominance, this class creates the illusion of plurality and choice through the constantly changing composition of its factions.

What does all this tell us? It tells us that the modern institutions by which we are supposed to conduct the governance of our nation will never function properly so long as the masses are trapped in poverty. It tells us that the choices offered by our present political parties, including those that purport to represent the poor, are false. It tells us that political parties that are not themselves financed by their members are a sham. It tells us that public officials who buy their way into public office are no more than merchants or agents; they are not the leaders. It tells us that voters who are hungry and needy cannot be political subjects in a democracy.

This political culture is bound to change, albeit slowly, as more and more of our people get out of poverty, largely by finding work abroad. The change is becoming visible in our growing intolerance for money politics and in the impatience with which we scan the horizon for new leaders.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

The harshest criticism against GSIS

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

GOING OVER THE INCREASING NUMBER OF e-mail I have received and continue to receive regarding the Government Service Insurance System as a result of the columns I have written on the eCard issue—there are currently 89 files, a lot of which include voluminous attachments—two features become apparent. The first is that the unfavorable comments far outnumber the favorable ones. As a matter of fact, the only favorable ones are the e-mail from Ms Ella Valencerina, who is a vice president of the GSIS, heading its public affairs office. But that is understandable—she came in with GSIS president Winston Garcia, and presumably owes her job to him. Ranged against her—or more accurately the GSIS under Garcia—is a whole spectrum of government agencies that includes the Civil Service Commission (specifically its chair, Karina Constantino-David), the Commission on Audit (specifically the special audit team that was formed to look into complaints against the GSIS), current and former employees of the GSIS itself, retirees (both here and abroad), teachers' associations (teachers represent the largest proportion of GSIS members), and other government employees.

A second notable feature is that the GSIS eCard program is not the only target of criticism. Other policies and programs implemented by Garcia's GSIS have been under fire even before the eCard scandal broke—in particular, its so-called "premium-based" policy and its claims and loans interdependency program. "Erroneous, oppressive and outrightly illegal," are the words Pedro Penduko (this sounds like a false name) uses to describe the policies of the "present GSIS dispensation."

Then there is Conchita C. Confesor who says that if GSIS members "are experiencing hell" doing business with the GSIS, it is "*sobra pa sa sampung impierno*" (worse than 10 hells) for GSIS employees themselves who are retiring. She cites her own experience as a case in point. And it truly sounds hellish: she starts with her application for retirement on May 25 of this year (effective July 15); she has to gather a total of 76 signatures for this process, which takes her up to July 31; and when she then sends it to Garcia's office for approval, it languishes for more than a month before it is approved (which makes Garcia guilty of sabotage and subject to administrative charges, according to his own pronouncement, she points out, because he said that all claims must be acted on within 10 days). To add insult to injury, she is then blamed for her late submission of papers to the provident fund, although it was not her fault—the delay was in Garcia's office. She also says that some GSIS employees from Tacloban City who retired in October 2006 and January 2007 have not yet (as of Oct. 3, when she sent me the e-mail) been fully paid their retirement benefits.

There is also Raul Nazareno, a CPA and the municipal accountant of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur, who asks me to conduct a survey to find out how many GSIS members did not receive their dividends last December (2006). He apparently has not received his, and knows others who haven't—and while the individual amounts are small, the total involved may be a "huge sum of money." There seems to be a innate distrust of the GSIS.

But the harshest criticism, and as telling as the findings of the COA Special Audit Team headed by Leonor Boado (who has been sued by the GSIS and "reassigned" by her COA superiors for her efforts), comes from Civil Service chair David. Way back in 2004, she wrote to GSIS president Garcia, objecting to his (newly introduced) policy which bases the (retirement) benefits to be received by GSIS members no longer on the number of years they served in government but on the number of years that their premiums were paid to the GSIS. As a result, government workers who had been working for 30 years suddenly found themselves with even less than the minimum 15 "creditable" years necessary for retirement, with the benefits vastly reduced.

David's letter, dated May 2004, pulls no punches: the premium-based policy which the GSIS "inexplicably" adopted the previous year, is "certainly not consistent with the avowed intention of the law," is "also violative of the due process clause enshrined in Sec. 1, Article III of the 1987 Constitution," and "runs counter to the provisions of the Constitution for the protection of our elderly and the promotion of the rights and welfare of all workers."

While David notes that the intentions of the GSIS in adopting the policy—to sustain its actuarial soundness, to simplify the process of establishing the members' creditable service, and to establish the correct premium collections—are valid, she points out that it should act "within the bounds of the law and balance its corporate interests with the welfare and interests of its members." She also points out that "from all indications" the fault lies with negligent employer agencies who either failed to remit the premiums, or who may have even failed to deduct them in the first place—as well as the GSIS itself, which neglected to run after these errant employer-agencies. And yet, the ones left holding the bag are the helpless employees.

Unfortunately, the situation so far remains uncorrected. The policy not only remains, it has been followed by the infamous eCard fiasco. Garcia is firmly in the saddle—incorrigible, unrepentant. And seemingly supported by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Throwing money at hunger

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

"GMA RELEASES ADD'L P1-B FUND FOR hunger," said last Thursday's headline on a daily broadsheet.

It seems that the administration has set up an "Anti-Hunger Task Force," and that at its meeting, on Wednesday in Manila Hotel, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the budget secretary to "immediately release" an "additional" P1 billion for anti-hunger measures.

It's a jumbo group. The news item listed the departments of agriculture, education, social welfare and development, environment and natural resources, transportation and communications, agrarian reform, interior and local government, plus the National Irrigation Administration, National Food Authority, Philippine Ports Authority, armed forces, police and local government units. (It forgot to mention the Department of Health.)

The President told the group to emphasize "supply-side" programs, which include: increasing food production through programs for livestock, crops, mangroves and coastal fisheries, and irrigation; and improving the delivery of food to consumers through more farm-to-market roads, full use of Roll-On Roll-Off ports, more Barangay Food Terminals and Tindahan Natin stores, and stronger school-feeding programs.

The group also has demand-side programs, including: increasing the income of the poor through micro-financing, job creation, livelihood training, developing "value-adding" products like coconut coir and virgin coconut oil; promoting nutrition through social marketing information seminars; and "managing the population" through responsible parenthood.

The item said that the agriculture secretary reported finishing 3,000 kilometers of new and renovated farm-to-market roads, and that the country already has over 7,700 Tindahan Natin stores and will have 8,000 stores by year's end.

It also reported the education secretary saying that "one kilo of rice is issued daily for 120 days to families who suffer from severe hunger and whose children are in pre-school and grades one to six."

Selective statistics. The item said that the director of the Presidential Management Staff welcomed the latest SWS poverty report, which allegedly "showed that more people have benefited from the country's economic gains." This presumably refers to the SWS report of Nov. 5, 2007, entitled "52% of families rate selves as poor, 43% as food-poor," based on the September 2007 Social Weather Survey.

Of course, the real reason for the to-do about hunger is the alarming SWS report of Oct. 1, 2007, "Hunger rises to new record-high of 21.5%; moderate is 17.4%; severe is 4.1%," also as of September 2007.

Hunger and poverty are surely related, but are not identical. It can happen—indeed, the SWS surveys show that **it is actually happening now**—that the head-count, of the poor (*mahirap*) are stable, or even falling, while at the same time the numbers of the hungry (*gutom*) are rising.

Theory versus practice. The list of supply-side programs and demand-side programs seem sensible in theory, but do they work in practice? It is possible to know how effective any particular program is in fighting hunger only by making the effort to obtain, and then to study, data about hunger in conjunction with data about the program. (To my knowledge, the only agency that actually ever does this is the DOH, which oversees the National Nutrition Council.)

For example, the SWS national survey of June 2006 looked into the public's interface with the Tindahan Natin convenience stores and with the government's school-feeding program, in order to assess the connection with hunger. At that time, hunger was already a serious 13.9 percent.

Tindahan Natin. In June 2006, 40 percent of household heads, nationwide, knew about the government's Tindahin Natin (TN) stores, but only 6.6 percent said there was a TN store in their locality, and only 3.0 percent had actually bought something from it. This means that, out of 17.3 million households in the country, 1.1 million had access to a TN store, and about 500,000 households had actually used it.

Among those who used a TN store, overall hunger was 12.1 percent, which was below the 18.6 percent among those who did not use it though it was available, as well as the 12.7 percent among those who knew of it but had none to go to, and the 14.4 percent among those who never heard of a TN store at all.

School feeding. In June 2006, when SWS did the survey, it was informed that school feeding was available only to children in public schools at the levels of day-care and Grade 1. The survey estimated that 3.65 million households (21 percent of the national total) had children qualified for school feeding. However, of those entitled, only the children of some 360,000 households actually got free rice in school.

Among households whose children got free rice, hunger was 8.7 percent, or below the 14.0 percent among those whose children were entitled but did not get any. Hunger among those without children entitled to school feeding was also 14.0 percent.

These survey results suggest that TN stores and school feeding reduced hunger to a certain extent. Was it close to what these programs expected? Were the costs reasonable? How much are TN stores and school feeding now likely to accomplish with the funds newly allotted to them?

Without data, government programs are only stumbling in the dark, and the money thrown at hunger will only hit its target by accident!

* * *

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

The 'Quality Education Challenge'

COMMENTARY

Butch Hernandez

THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT (NCLB)—passed by the US Congress in 2001 and signed into law a year later—holds American public schools accountable for their students' test scores vis-à-vis standards set by the individual states. It further provides that every student must show proficiency in those subjects by 2014.

New York Times columnist Sam Dillon describes the NCLB as "President George W. Bush's signature domestic achievement and the most important statement of federal policy [on public education]."

The law calls for every student to be proficient in English and Math by 2014. Annual tests are administered at Grades 3 through 8 to see whether schools are making "adequate yearly progress" (AYP) toward that goal. Schools that fail to make AYP are meted out penalties that range from providing tutoring to students to outright closure.

Certainly, the NCLB has its flaws and probably more than its fair share of detractors. Online debates on the matter point to "a primary criticism that the NCLB could reduce effective instruction and student learning because it may cause states to lower achievement goals and motivate teachers to 'to teach to the test'."

However, there are lessons that we can draw from it.

First, the NCLB is a good example of political will, as it was enacted to directly address the learning crisis in American public schools. Second, the NCLB squarely affirms that quality public education is the government's primary responsibility, but one that must be shared by all constituencies.

Former Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus—a founding trustee of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power—said as much for Philippine public education when he commented that "[Education] is too big to be left to government alone. We all have to help."

As he and the rest of the FWWPP saw it when we launched the Education Revolution in 2002, the real issue is genuine, systemic education reform premised on consistent quality.

Today, at long last and amid other equally vital national issues, the need for education reform has finally managed to inch its way into the forefront of public awareness. Indeed, the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001 and the Adopt-A-School Law of 1998 are two key pieces of legislation that have set the tone for broader community involvement in our drive toward quality education.

Still, the current realities surrounding public education remains mind-numbing. Functionally illiterate second year high school students actually exist. The average Grade 6 pupil can only answer about 60 percent of his National Achievement Test questions correctly. Fourth year high school students do worse, with a national average score of just below 50 percent. We have Grade 4 pupils who can correctly pronounce written words but struggle to grasp what they mean. Our education woes are far from over.

You may have heard of the 57-75 Movement, a private sector-led initiative to realign Corporate Social Responsibility efforts toward initiating and sustaining meaningful education improvement programs. This movement delivers a very clear message of support for public education from corporate citizens.

We—and I mean not just the FWWPP but also hundreds of other NGOs, people's organizations and private foundations—have been visiting communities and meeting with local governments, local business, the academic community and the concerned Department of Education divisions.

We have a simple objective: to encourage these groups to get together and form Local Education Alliances whose continuing goal is genuine and sustainable education reform.

Understandably—because we all want to help but many of us are not educators—our involvement occurs at varying levels. Some private foundations envision newer and better school buildings as their contribution to the cause. Other groups aim to provide more and better books and teaching aids. Still, others immerse themselves in school-feeding and tutoring programs. The list goes on and on.

All of these are most welcome developments, and they would definitely have more widespread impact when teachers act as one and start stepping up to the "Quality Education Challenge."

Teachers know that quality education has two dimensions: mastering cognitive skills such as the three R's, and promoting creative development.

Dr. Evelyn Mejillano, the FWWPP's Mentoring the Mentors national coordinator, repeatedly tells teachers participating in MMP sessions: "There can be no learning where there are no teachers."

Sadly, teachers in our public schools face a multitude of problems, in school as well as beyond it. Incredibly large class sizes, multi-grade sessions, fair to poor facilities, endemically inadequate—and sometimes antiquated—teaching aids, and a salary that barely enables one to keep body and soul together are just some examples.

The quintessential teacher, Dr. Onofre Pagsanghan, once said that teaching is the only profession he knows where "so much is asked and so little is given." Be that as it may, such is the price you pay for the life you choose. On the other hand, if there is anything our teachers have taught us, it is that Excellence is its own Reward.

Butch Hernandez is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power. E-mail comments to butchhernandez@gmail.com

The deeper meaning of Erap's red jacket

BETWEEN DEADLINES

SEEING RED. IS THE NEO-ANGONO ARTISTS Collective, the muralists commissioned by the National Press Club, the artistic arm, so to speak, of the Narciso Antazo Aramil Command of the New People's Army?

Former National Press Club president and current secretary Louie Logarta thinks so, noting, with the thick brush of innuendo, that both groups bear the acronym NAAC. (The NPA command operates in Rizal province.)

Logarta's Red-baiting is anti-historical, given that some previous NPC leaders had joined the insurgency. Antonio Zumel was an NPC president before he went underground; Satur Ocampo's legendary escape from the NPC during the club's election in 1985 could not have been possible without the connivance of some NPC members.

The NPC used to be the living symbol of the freedom of expression; in its precincts, ideas had the run of the place. This was the tradition that made dining and drinking at the NPC lively and interesting; without it, what is the NPC except just another restaurant?

No wonder the NPC has become a ghost club—where even ghost writers refuse to tread!

F. Zamora

* * *

THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE NOT-UPDATED. Last week, the Philippine Marine Corps celebrated its 57th anniversary. Everyone got the word, except, apparently, the Marines' own website (philippinemarinecorps.mil.ph). It's stuck in the year 2005.

The site honors Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda as Marine commandant. Posted are his birthday message, his directives to the Corps, even his official photograph.

Miranda, however, has been detained at a high-security Army stockade in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal for more than a year now. Together with 27 other Marine and Army Scout Ranger officers, he stands accused of conspiracy to overthrow the Arroyo administration in February last year.

Miranda's sudden relief as commandant on Feb. 26, 2006 resulted in a three-hour standoff led by his loyal commanders, including Col. Ariel Querubin. Since then, two other generals have occupied his post: Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga and (currently) Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino.

Why is Miranda still the commandant online? Explains Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan, former Marines spokesperson, in a mix of English and Filipino: "It [the site] just hasn't been updated. It's actually due for a major web design revision and there's a need to update the articles posted therein."

N. Dizon.

* * *

LEADING MAN. It was something any seasoned leading man would do: Pick the best wardrobe to stand out in the crowd and on screen.

On the day he formally accepted pardon from Malacañang, convicted ex-President Joseph Estrada was first seen in news footage wearing a mint-green jacket. He was in this pastel number when he signed the pardon document in the presence of Interior Secretary Ronnie Puno and other witnesses at the so-called Maranao Village pavilion inside Estrada's gilded prison, his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal. This was at around 3:30 p.m.

Two hours later, when the Sandiganbayan sheriff arrived in Tanay with Estrada's release papers, the newly freed prisoner had already changed to a bright red jacket. The former movie star would keep this eye-catching outfit on for the rest of the night, up to his big homecoming bash in San Juan.

The switch was anything but unplanned. Behind it was Estrada's three-decade mastery of showmanship on and off-screen.

According to a ranking administration official present during the whole affair, Estrada found his first jacket "too pale" for the cameras. After a quick change to red, the official recalled, a visibly satisfied Estrada was heard saying: "*Mas maganda* effect *nito sa* TV. *Dati tayong artista kaya alam natin 'yan.*"

Reached on the phone Thursday night, a chuckling Estrada confirmed this little vignette.

And while he had publicly thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo for the pardon and expressed support for her anti-poverty programs, the opposition leader also hinted at a deeper symbolism behind his costume change that day: "I was on my way out [to freedom], so I was in fighting form again."

V. Contreras

* * *

NO PROBLEM, NO PRESSURE. Because many cases with telling political consequences reach the Supreme Court, it is always a possibility that parties to the cases may try to pressure the high court into ruling in their favor. Like other jurists before him, Chief Justice Reynato Puno isn't fazed by the prospect of going up against powerful people.

"They can always exert pressure but I know what to do," he said in a recent interview.

He is no stranger to deciding controversial cases.

One of the first cases he decided at the high court, he recalled, involved the sensational murder case of Claudio Teehankee Jr., the son of retired Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee. Puno affirmed the conviction of the younger Teehankee for killing two young people.

"Nobody would touch that case so they kept on unloading the case. It was a hot potato," he recalled.

Many years later, Puno penned the ruling that affirmed the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption of office after deposed President Joseph Estrada's "constructive resignation" in 2001.

Puno also struck down the oil deregulation law, frustrating the interests of a powerful oil cartel. His decision prompted Congress to pass another such law, but without the provisions he had nullified.

"These are big cases, controversial cases. You step on the toes of big people, big vested interests. So I guess I've grown comfortable with that," he said. A word to the wise.

L. Salaverria

Growing up at 29

YOUNG BLOOD

Arvin Buising

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I HATE GOODBYES. MOST SPECIALLY IF IT'S MY YOUTH I'm saying goodbye to. You see, I turned 29 last October. The horror!

I first came to realize how ancient I've become on my way to the office. There were some girls in the elevator, and one of them appeared to be very upset. I learned the reason when she admitted to her friends that she was turning 23 that month and she was feeling really old. She thought she was old, while I felt like a relic of the Mesozoic era.

There's this Tagalog saying: "*Kalabaw lang ang tumatanda.*" (Tell that to the girl in the elevator.) But I would like to believe that I'm too young to be mentioning it. After all, I'm still in my 20s.

My entertainment preference fits snugly into that age bracket. I watch the movies twentysomethings watch. I thought "Tokyo Drift" was cool. I can relate to the troubles of the adolescent hero in "Transformers." "With great power comes great responsibility" struck me as very profound. I listen to Magic 89.9, and I think DJ Mo is just awesome. And yes, I read and buy Bob Ong's books. And that's not because I want to feel young but because I enjoy them, OK?

Recently I had my head shaved; that's the "in" thing today, you know. I'm also growing a goatee. And I have started lifting weights. I am convinced that all I need is a little toning. "At least a year to get you in shape" was my gym instructor's verdict though.

I often cut the grass in our yard while humming Akon's "Nobody wants to see us together/ But it don't matter, no/ 'Cause I got you"—much to my wife's annoyance. She says she only heard that song from her teenage brother. "Oh, but our 11-year-old daughter likes that song, too," I pointed out to her.

I know what you're thinking: *Nagmumurang kamatis. Tumatanda ng paurong.*

Maybe there's a psychological explanation to what I'm going through. I suspect I'm having a mid-life crisis. Pretty odd, don't you think? I'm still in my 20s, remember?

But like everyone else, I would like to think I'm special. After all, not everyone gets to be a father at 17 or has four kids at the old age of 26.

The thing is, I never really experienced adolescence. Neither did my wife.

Let me wander off a bit and tell you a little about my wife. She turned 30 last July. She's into Korean love stories. I'll take her to Korea someday, but that's another story. I guess she's having her own version of a premature mid-life crisis.

Psychologists say that the ability to postpone gratification for a greater reward is a sign of emotional maturity. Emotional maturity is independent of physical age, too.

Which brings us back to Spiderman's Uncle Ben. I wasn't being sarcastic when I said that the cliché popularized by the box-office hit seems profound to me. Look at it this way: It is also true the other way around: "With great responsibility comes great power." It means that while I have a great responsibility to my kids, I also have the power to shape their lives and ultimately to help make their dreams come true!

My eldest, Angela, who is 11, says she wants to be a writer. She's starting on it now. She writes articles and I edit them and give her feedback. She's good, too. With some practice, she will be brilliant.

Miguel, 9, wants to be a computer programmer or maybe a chef. No, he wants to be a policeman. Wait, he says he wants to be a salesman just like me. He also wants to form a rock band that he'll call Miguelito Band. OK, so he doesn't know yet what he wants to be when he grows up. But who does really? I'm not sure what I want to be when I grow up.

Gabriela, 4, who learned the alphabet when she was 2, simply wants to go to school. I guess I got that one covered, unless she keeps on studying to get an MA and a Ph.D. without getting a job.

Armand, 3, is working on speaking intelligibly. He can now say "No," "No way," "Oh, no!" and "What are you, nuts?"

Making dreams come true require funding. So the trip to Korea will have to wait. But that's all right. My wife and I can enjoy Jeju Island just the same whether we're 30 or 43, and providing for my kids has its own rewards.

Age is just a number—or so they say. But whether we like it or not, we all have to grow up. I'm neither too young nor too old. I am just right. I still have a lot to learn and at the same time I've also learned a lot already. I haven't proven anything really noteworthy yet, but I am comfortable with who I am and what I can or cannot do. I no longer strive to impress other people, unlike most boys in their early 20s. I have come to terms with the fact that I am no longer a teenager and that trying to look like a teenager or acting like one won't change that fact.

I know that I'm living a life with a purpose.

I'm giving up Akon and Bob Ong, and I'm growing back my hair and shaving my goatee. And I'm saying my overdue farewell to adolescence.

Adieu!

Arvin Buising, 29, is an account manager at Branders.com.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Journalistic irony

"Isn't it ironic that an institution such as the [National Press Club] would cause the censorship of a work that they themselves commissioned purportedly to promote press freedom?"

—The Neo-Angono Artists Collective, reacting to the "bastardization" of its mural on press freedom

Useless questions

"They can question my presidency, but they cannot do anything about it."

—Ramon Guico Jr., mayor of Binalonan, Pangasinan, after governors questioned his swearing in as interim president of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines

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UP's inconsistency unmasked

IT STRIKES ME AS ODD THAT the University of the Philippines, especially its "militant" community, is quick to point out excesses in government and in the private sector but is slow in taking action on cases of fraternity hazing.

To my mind, there is no clear justification for violence, especially the kind committed by those who only seek a semblance of affiliation and brotherhood in an academic community.

Perhaps, the university officials should start to crack the whip on these fraternities, if only to show that they can serve justice to victims of hazing in the same way the university community calls for transparency and honest-to-goodness governance.

—KJELL ABOY, pseudoshrink98@yahoo.com

Process in selecting eCard bank was transparent

WE WRITE TO CLARIFY THE MISconception that Solita C. Monsod, may have on the Government Service Insurance System. We are referring to her Nov. 3 column.

We found it unfair that Monsod included the GSIS on the list of examples of corrupt entities in the Philippines and United States on the basis of the perceived closeness of the Aboitizes to President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family.

As the GSIS had explained in various fora, including congressional hearings, the eCard project was borne out of the need to expedite the disbursement of benefits through the available electronic facilities of a reputable bank. The procurement of a banking service does not require government agencies to go through a bidding process.

For the sake of transparency, the GSIS openly invited all major banks in the Philippines to submit their proposals, giving government banks the first crack. The criteria for selection were simple. At that time (2003), the GSIS wanted a bank that had a ready and working electronic banking facility, besides requiring the lowest deposit maintaining balance. All banks that submitted their proposals went through a technical and financial evaluation, and Union Bank was assessed to have made the best technical and financial offer to the GSIS.

With regard to lawyers Albert Velasco and Mario Molina, they were separated from government service in accordance with Civil Service rules and regulations.

Lastly, the GSIS is in no position to comment on the reassignment of auditor Leonor Boado to another unit within the Commission on Audit, or on the perceived delays of the action of the Office of the Ombudsman on cases filed before it. The COA and the Ombudsman are independent constitutional bodies. Any insinuation that the GSIS or any entity, for that matter, can dictate on them is an affront to the COA and the Ombudsman.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA, vice president, Public Affairs Office, Government Service Insurance System, Financial Center, Pasay City

Redefining constitutional terms as way to move on

MAY I PROPOSE SOME AMENDments to the definition given in Political Science 101 for some constitutional terms.

"Executive order" should now mean: "No public officer must be compelled to attend congressional hearings in aid of legislation if such hearings would endanger the interests of the chief executive."

"Executive privilege": "No Cabinet member, police or military officer may be forced to be a witness against himself or against the chief executive."

"Executive clemency": "All persons who are convicted of plunder (the amount involved must be at least a billion pesos) should be immediately pardoned within two months after conviction."

"People power": the "right of the people to change their oppressive or repressive government, provided, however, that its outcome and gains may be overturned by anyone of its beneficiaries; or by the chief executive for political expediency."

"Democracy": "a government of the chief executive, by the chief executive and for the chief executive."

With these changes which, anyway, are already being applied by the administration, perhaps, we can now formally "move on" on the road to national perdition and, like the lemmings entranced by the music of the Pied Piper, march off the cliff to drown in the sea of oblivion.

However, there's one better option for those who reject the present state of political affairs but refuse to stand up and resist—they can as well commit *hara-kiri* and, like the Japanese samurai of old, they can die, at least, with dignity.

—R.B. MAGUIGAD, Libro Filipino, 2077 Claro M. Recto, Manila

LETTERS

Senators who are so young, so 'trapo'

IT APPEARS THAT WITHIN THE remaining three years of the Arroyo administration, Filipinos can't expect a genuine and drastic change in governance despite the seemingly earnest exposés made by some members of the opposition.

Right after the last elections, cracks could already be felt in the opposition ranks in the Senate. There seemed at first to be an agreement that Sen. Panfilo Lacson would get the chairmanship of the blue ribbon committee. But the position was given to Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, with the support of another young and so-called true-blue opposition senator—Francis Escudero. The people may not know what deals were cut with the administration then. But Cayetano's lackluster handling of the Senate investigation has belied his recent pronouncements on the irregularities of the Arroyo administration.

For instance, Cayetano allowed Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya to get into the closed-door committee hearing requested by former Neda Director General Romulo Neri; he conducted a closed-door meeting to hear the testimony of Jose de Venecia III without the other senators; and he brushed aside De Venecia III's latest testimony as hearsay.

To him and Escudero, this description, a paraphrase from the words of the late Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson, would so aptly apply: "So young and so *trapo*."

—MELITON JUANICO, melitonjuanico@yahoo.com

Politicians of the same feather

JOSEPH ESTRADA'S INSISTENCE on his innocence and total lack of remorse has become the second slap in the face of the Filipino nation. The first was the pardon itself. How can there ever be "unity, rule of law, justice" if people found guilty of committing crimes against the nation get off the hook just like that?

I once had hope for this country, which is why I am still here. But that hope is running out with the realization that all those in politics are the same. It is either they are in power and want to stay in power at all costs, or they are not in power and they want to grab power at all costs.

Nobody really cares for poor Juan de la Cruz. Neither the administration nor the opposition. Neither the fascist military nor the communist insurgents. They are all of the same ilk.

—RODINO TANJUAKIO, bobot_98@yahoo.com

Pardon crushed hope for better RP

SINCE THE TIME OF MARCOS, I have never wavered in my hope to see a better Philippines. And I always supported GMA in my heart and in any way I could although I doubted most of her decisions.

Her pardon for Joseph Estrada was the last straw. I no longer see a peaceful path to a better Philippines. God help us all!

—NES BARICANTE, neselsie@hotmail.com

Erap will be vindicated by history

THOSE OF US WHO CONTINUE to believe in the innocence of President Joseph "Erap" Estrada, despite his conviction by the Sandiganbayan, are very much elated by the pardon given to him by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

To us, it reinforced our belief in the innocence of Erap because if he were really guilty, the President would not have readily granted him pardon.

We also believe in the sound advice of his lawyers (congratulations to former Sen. Rene Saguisag and Jose Flaminiano and the others!) to accept the pardon because history tells us that special courts are always created to convict, never to exonerate, much less to determine the innocence of an accused. Andres Bonifacio, the Katipunan supremo, was sentenced to death after a very short "trial." Justice Jose Abad Santos was decapitated by the Japanese in World War II because he would not follow the propaganda line of the invaders.

Like what happened to them, history will one day ultimately vindicate President Estrada because truth always comes out, however delayed.

I am certain that after more than six years of incarceration Erap has become a better man. When he was at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he was confined in a two-room cottage, I used to visit him. I learned that he never partook of liquors while in confinement and that every Sunday he attended Bible classes he organized and Masses with friends who came to visit him.

If his detractors keep on hitting (or hating?) him, I will be one of the many who will suggest that he run for the presidency so that the entire Filipino nation will ultimately be the judge of his innocence or guilt. If he will not run for president, I will suggest that he support actively a presidential candidate to gauge the trust he still has among the masses he loves.

—DR. OMBRA REY A. TAMANO, MNSA, dr.tamano@yahoo.com

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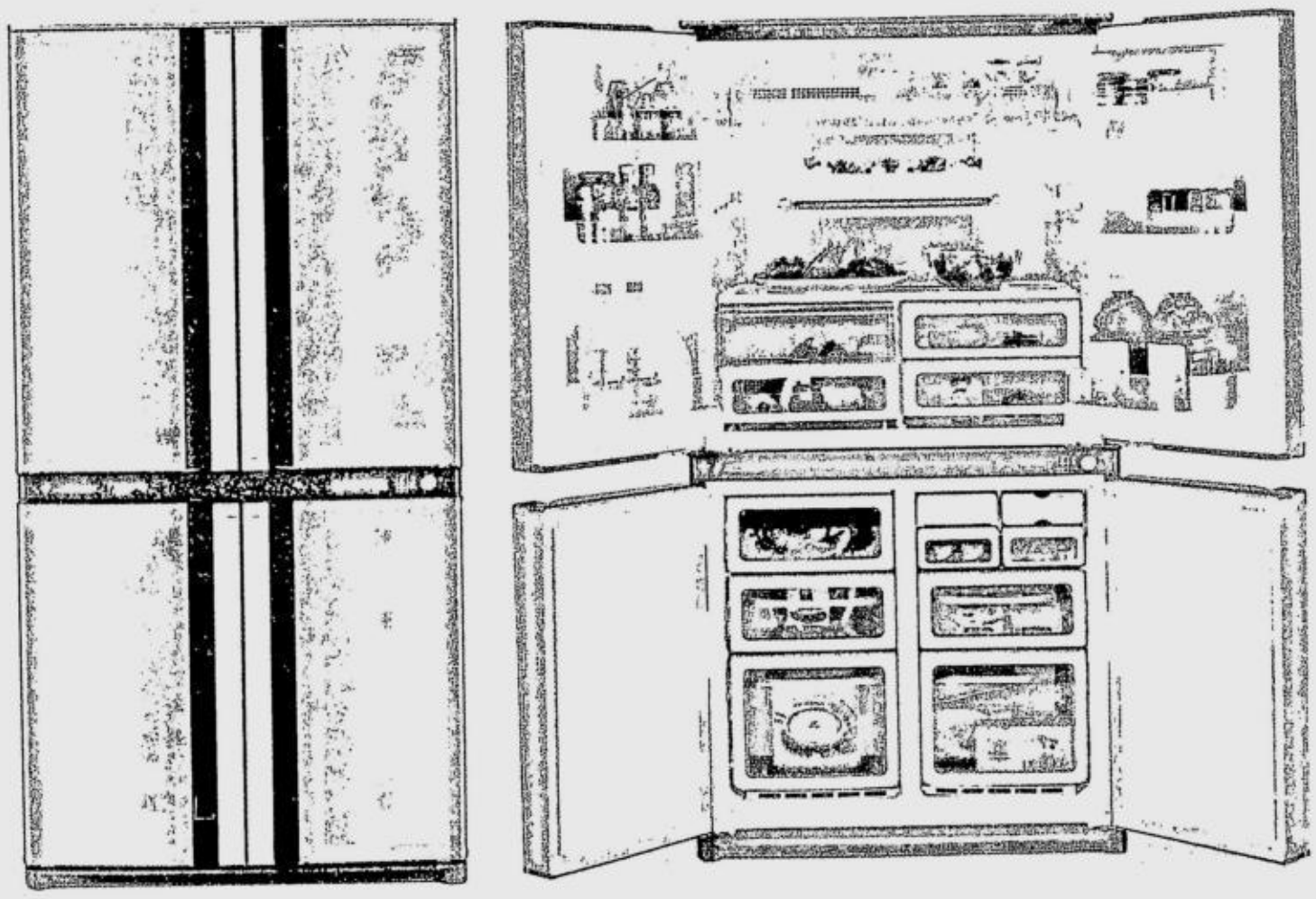

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5442. Series of 2007.

Peso breaches 43-$1 barrier, boosted by OFW cash

From page A1

tion accounted for about half of the $759.5-million volume at the Philippine Dealing System.

The BSP has been intervening actively to slow the peso's gain to ease the pain of a strong peso on exporters and overseas Filipino workers. The Philippines' foreign exchange reserves have jumped 41 percent so far this year.

But analysts also suspect the central bank is happy to see the currency appreciate slowly, to alleviate the pressure on inflation from rising food and crude oil prices.

"The dollar is basically weak to start with," said Reevie Vergara, treasurer of the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines.

"There seems to be a majority in the market speculating that there will be a [US] Fed cut before the year's end although I personally think that they may postpone the rate cut," Vergara said.

OFW cash flows

Another factor in the peso's strong surge is the expectation that remittance flows would reach frenzied levels as the Christmas holiday season approaches.

"The earlier they [OFWs] send money, the better for their families especially because they expect a further US dollar depreciation," Vergara said.

The fourth quarter is a strong season for overseas remittance inflows ahead of Christmas, the country's longest and most extravagant holiday.

Coupled with dollar inflows expected from the resurgence of foreign portfolio investments into the stock market and the expected privatization of the government's controlling stake in the PNOC-Energy Development Corp., traders are even seeing 42.50 now.

"We're looking at 42.50:$1 next week," said Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro-EPCI.

"Only a move above the 43:$1 levels would suggest a near-term reversal is in place," he said.

Large inflows were also expected following the sale by food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. of its Australian investments in dairy, juice and beer to raise nearly $3 billion.

The government will bid out on Nov. 21 its 60-percent stake in the PNOC-EDC, the country's largest producer of geothermal energy. The privatization, through which government hopes to raise more than $800 million to meet its deficit target for the year, has attracted foreign companies, including large Japanese conglomerates.

Edging out rupee

The peso has gained by more than 14 percent since the start of the year, edging out the Indian rupee, the region's strongest currency in earlier months.

This week alone, the peso rose by about 2 percent.

Because of the currency's strong rise, there is a growing expectation in the domestic market that the BSP would also cut its benchmark interest rates during the central bank's next policy rate-setting on Nov. 15.

Other Asian currencies had far smaller gains. The Indonesian rupiah rose 0.35 percent to levels around 9,115 per dollar, the Singapore dollar was flat and the Malaysian ringgit gained a quarter of a percent to 3.3210 per dollar. *With a report from Reuters*

GMA critics send 'Pinoy BigBriber' eviction notice

From page A1

around 200, trooped to the Makati Post Office in their black T-shirts at past noon to mail the cards, catching the staff by surprise by their sheer number.

"We're telling the President that we won't take all of this bribery and lying sitting down," B & W convenor Vicente Romano said in an interview. "The people know that they had been fooled. We'd like to express our outrage at this."

At the Senate, lawmakers vowed to push through with their hearing on Wednesday into the cash handouts, warning refusal by Malacañang officials to attend would be a sign of Palace guilt.

Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio unleashed a political storm last month when he admitted receiving a bag filled with P500,000 while he was in Malacañang that day.

Several other governors and congressmen have since also admitted getting "cash gifts" after a breakfast meeting with Ms Arroyo which came amid new attempts to impeach her.

They included Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza, Negros Oriental Gov. Emilio Macias, Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan, Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante and La Union Rep. Thomas Dumpit.

Quezon Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III said the other day that several Liberal Party congressmen had also admitted receiving money handouts.

Palace officials said Ms Arroyo had no hand in it.

The protesters converged at the statue of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and marched to the post office blocks away.

They handed out postcards to office workers and tried to coax them into joining.

At the post office, they lined up at the counters to pay for the P7 stamp, forming long queues and throwing postal workers in a frenzy.

It was over in 30 minutes.

Tragedy of Pinoys

"This is not good for the children, and the highest officials are teaching our children to lie. Once that happens, the moral fabric of society decays. What will this country amount to?" former Education Secretary Florencio Abad said in an interview.

"That's precisely why we are here. We want to save whatever is left of the tattered reputation of our country for our young people."

The group said they doubted Ms Arroyo would resign but said they were just as happy to show they had come together to express outrage over her acts.

"That's more her problem," Teresita "Ging" Deles, former secretary of the peace process, said when asked about the certain Palace rejection of their call.

"This is our tragedy, that our leaders do not seem to have boundaries on what is right or wrong."

Abad and Deles were among the 10 officials who quit the Arroyo Cabinet in July 2005 and called for her resignation at the height of the "Hello Garci" tape scandal.

INQUIRER columnist Manuel Quezon III said: "It doesn't matter whether the officials will listen or not? Remember, People Power is showing collective results. It's equally important for people to come together to show that they feel the same way."

"And for the President to know, whether she will listen or not, that the people feel a certain way."

Not all the people in the post office agreed with the group.

A 63-year-old Makati City resident and retired chemist asked for a copy of the postcard, but did not mail it.

"I like her (Ms Arroyo). She's deserving. If it's all about bribery, all the politicians should go," she said.

Deles hoped the people who got the postcards would mass-produce them, mail them to their congressmen and governors, and press them to tell the truth.

Among those who mailed the postcards were National Movement for Free Elections' Edward Go and B & W executive director Leah Navarro.

The good thing about this, according to Romano, was that the middle class and the elite were now joining the campaign.

Risks of a snub

Senate President Manuel Villar said Malacañang stood to lose before public opinion if it did not allow its officials to attend the Senate investigation.

Malacañang has said its officials will not attend.

"They always say that. I think that goes to show they are admitting that they are in the wrong," Villar said in Filipino.

He said the Senate blue ribbon committee would push through with the investigation even if Malacañang snubbed it.

He said the hearings would give Malacañang a chance to explain where the funds came from and what they were for.

"We're giving them a chance to explain what that was all about. If the money was not from them or if they are not guilty, they would have the chance to say they are not guilty," he said.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno at first pointed to the Lakas Party as the source of the funds, but Occidental Mindoro Rep. Amelita Villarosa later said that Kampi, Ms Arroyo's party, distributed the money.

Kampi's president, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, sounds convinced that someone else was behind Villarosa's admission that the party distributed cash gifts to at least two congressmen.

Villafuerte said Villarosa would be the subject of a Kampi internal investigation to also determine her motive for admitting that she had given P500,000 each to Representative Abante and Representative Dumpit.

Villafuerte noted the timing seemed off because the issue of the cash gifts was no longer in the news when Villarosa suddenly broke her silence.

"We want to know who is moving her," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The lawmaker pointed out that Villarosa was closely identified with Speaker Jose de Venecia and the Kampi faction headed by Secretary Puno, who is also the party's chair.

A Kampi meeting tentatively set for next Tuesday would allow members to confront Villarosa on her admission, he said.

Sign of guilt

Another senator said Malacañang should cooperate in the Senate probe to prove that it had nothing to hide.

"That's a sign of guilt as far as I am concerned. If indeed they have nothing to hide, then they should in fact cherish any and every opportunity to air their side," said Sen. Francis Escudero.

"Does the Palace fear they will offend some of their allies or is the Palace the source of the cash gifts? Whether they cooperate or not, the blue ribbon is committed to find out the whole truth," said Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said that the Palace's non-cooperation was expected considering that Ms Arroyo was involved.

"But we have a lot of means to obtain important and substantial information to enlighten the public on this matter," said Lacson.

'Utmost hypocrisy'

Lacson said Malacañang's refusal to cooperate, while creating a task force against corrupt cops on the street, reeked of "utmost hypocrisy."

"She has been tolerating the bribery happening under her nose in Malacañang. My advice to her is to start with herself or else her efforts will go nowhere," said Lacson.

Sen. Edgardo Angara agreed with Malacañang that the money distribution should be investigated by other government agencies that have jurisdiction over the matter. He urged his colleagues to stop politicking and just focus on their job of creating laws. *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra*

BAGFUL OF HUMOR: Members of the Black and White Movement rally on Ayala Avenue with paper bags at hand to hark back to the free-flowing of cash at the Palace for congressmen and governors. EDWIN BACASMAS

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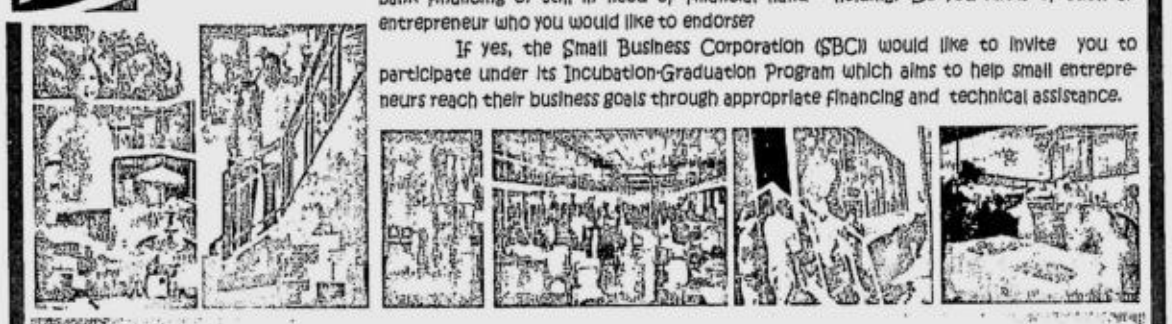

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The day the village feasted, then cried

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Balasan, Iloilo

MARY ANN LANGREO AND MARY Ann Labinghisa were both excited to go back to school after their semestral break on Monday.

The bubbly 13-year-olds had prepared their notebooks and books two days before classes would resume. They had also ironed their uniforms and readied their class projects for submission.

They never went to school again.

Their classmates saw only their remains in white wooden coffins at Crisme Funeral Homes in Balasan town, 128 kilometers northeast of Iloilo City.

The two Mary Anns were among six girls, aged 13 to 17 years, who drowned during a victory party of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) candidates on Nov. 4 at Buendia Beach Resort in Barangay Barosbos in the neighboring town of Carles.

Labinghisa had won as SK councilor, and two other officers—Eden Aglinao, 16, and Lovelyn Bullos, 17, also died. The rest of the dead were Rizza Arenajo, 16, and her sister Cielo, 14; and Mary Ann Langreo, 13.

SK Chair Annie Mae Langreo, 16, and Councilor Jeanette Salvador, 16, and Rhee Ann Salle, 14, survived.

The victims, all students of the Balasan National High School, came from the farming village of Malapok, around 1.5 km from the Balasan town proper.

The tragedy has shaken the quiet village of around 300 people, mostly relatives, and many town residents.

"This is the worst accident that we had as far as I can remember," said Mayor Filomeno Ganzon, who was himself at the party and had lunch with about 100 villagers, their leaders and families of the victims. He had gone home ahead of the group without swimming because it was still low tide.

CIELO Arenajo

MARY ANN Langreo

EDEN Aglinao

RIZZA Arenajo

Annie Mae remembered the party as a boisterous feast—dancing, drinking, games and videoke-singing.

The SK council had planned the getaway to celebrate its win in the Oct. 29 elections, she said. Almost the whole village came on board two Isuzu Elf trucks.

Shrieks of grief

> No one had expected that the laughter and clapping would turn into shrieks of grief a few hours later

But no one had expected that the laughter and clapping would turn into shrieks of grief a few hours later.

Annie Mae said 18 of them—nine girls and nine boys—had ventured farther away from the shore because the water had receded. They settled at Bugtong Bato, a large rock formation accessible only at low tide.

All the girls did not know how to swim so they started to go back to the shore after fishermen warned them of rising waters.

Tragedy struck while they were on their way back.

"Suddenly, we felt like we were stepping on mud and before we knew it, the water was already over our heads," said Annie Mae.

The girls tried to cling to the boys who knew how to swim, but they were also trying to save their own lives.

Fear gripped Annie Mae when she saw her cousin Rizza floating face down.

"I was afraid that I would also not make it," she said. "I kept on bobbing and kicking just to gasp for air every time I surfaced until somebody pulled me ashore."

By this time, their families and companions were already trying to save as many as they can. It was too late.

Five bodies were retrieved by late afternoon. The remains of Lovelyn Bullos was found early the next day.

Mayor Ganzon said the municipal officials would provide financial assistance to the families of the victims, including covering funeral costs. "Nobody wanted this to happen," he said.

The tragedy has also raised calls to ensure safety at beach resorts.

Carles Vice Mayor Rodolfo Dumayas Jr. said the municipal council planned to pass an ordinance regulating the operations of resorts in the town. This would involve providing lifeguards and installing warning signs in beach areas that should be avoided by bathers.

Disbelief

At the funeral parlor, the families of the victims were still in disbelief.

"They were very close to me and I had depended on them with the household chores," said Conchita Arenajo, 54, mother of Rizza and Cielo. Both had promised her that they would work after graduation to help their parents.

Annie Mae said her sister, Mary Ann, had high scores in class and wanted to become a teacher. She loved to watch TV, especially cartoon shows and was a fan of teenage star Kim Chiu.

"She wanted me to buy her nice clothes but she would understand if I tell her that we could not afford it. It hurts me that she died without getting the things that she asked from me," said her mother Violeta, 45.

Friends and classmates of Mary Ann Labinghisa remembered her as a quiet and good-natured girl.

"She could easily make friends with anyone because she smiles a lot," said her friend Irene Francelisa.

Mary Ann was close to her father Saldy, she being the only girl among five children.

"The last time we talked she told me she wanted to take a computer course in college. I did not know that was our last time together," said Saldy.

Vicente Aglinao, 42, said his daughter Eden wanted to finish a two-year midwifery course so she could help her parents, both farmers.

"I work hard so that my children would have something to eat and get a better chance in life than what we had," said Vicente. "In just a wink of an eye, she was taken away."

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MANGROVE trees were planted during the recent launch of Trees for Life project in Barangay Tando, Nueva Valencia town, Guimaras province, which was hit by oil spill in August last year. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Urgent measures to save RP's marine resources

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Iloilo City

CONSERVATIONISTS ARE APpealing for more funds to check the rapid decline of the country's marine resources, saying that decades-long rehabilitation efforts would cost billions of pesos.

They also called for major policy reforms and strict enforcement of fisheries and coastal resource management laws during a national congress on marine protected areas (MPAs) held in Iloilo City on Oct. 27-28.

About 200 representatives of local governments, nongovernment and people's organizations, academe, government agencies and donor institutions attended the congress, which was organized by the Marine Protected Areas Support Network (MSN).

At least 95 percent of coral reef areas in the Philippines are damaged or threatened and only a third of the 450,000 hectares of mangroves recorded in 1918 have remained, the MSN reported.

Half of the sea grasses are gone and fish catch has declined by as much as 90 percent in some fishing communities, it said.

Funding from the government, private sector and donor organizations is critical to sustain rehabilitation and conservation efforts, said Angel Alcala, a former environment secretary and now head of the Siliman University Angel King Center for Research and Environmental Management.

It costs P1 million per year to rehabilitate 100 hectares of MPA, and it would take at least a decade for fish stock to recover in the area from the time it is closed for fishing, Alcala said in a press conference on Sunday.

"So far, we have just been talking so much," he said.

Congress participants pushed for the mandatory allocation of at least 5 percent of the development fund of LGUs for programs on Integrated Coastal Management/Coastal Resource Management (ICM/CRM).

They also sought the institutionalization of ICM programs in half of the country's 907 coastal municipalities and cities.

Alcala said 20-30 percent of fishing areas should be declared "no-take" marine reserves. A total ban on fishing will be implemented to allow the fish to breed and grow until they are able to reproduce enough to populate other fishing grounds.

These major measures are necessary because fish supply could still be depleted with the worsening effects of climate change, said Alcala.

The government, private sector and donors should also ensure the provision of alternative livelihood for fishermen who would be dislocated in the MPAs, he added.

While the Philippines is considered among the best in the world in enacting laws concerning marine protected areas, strict implementation of these laws is still needed, said Environment Undersecretary Manuel Gerochi. The measures must synchronize with local ordinances and programs, he said.

Dr. Perry Aliño, MSN chair, stressed the need to come up with models and standards for MPAs, saying many practices in over 1,000 such areas in the country were ineffective.

Chancellor Glenn Aguilar of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas urged schools to teach their pupils the importance of protecting the environment.

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Bacoor blast site yields more bodies

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—POLICE YESTERday found two more male bodies under the rubble of one of the collapsed houses rocked by an explosion inside a subdivision in Bacoor, Cavite on Thursday.

This brought the number of fatalities in the "accidental explosion" to five.

Supt. Antonio Yarra, Bacoor police chief, said that at around 1 a.m., one of the bodies was found by members of the search and retrieval team under the damaged roof of one of the destroyed houses along Anthurium Street in Camella Sorrento Village in Barangay Panapaan 4.

He said the other body was found at around noon.

Yarra, however, said they have yet to extricate the latest body as bomb experts were still scouring the area for other bomb ingredients.

He said both bodies were "almost mangled," adding that the two recovered bodies remained unidentified.

A press statement from the Philippine National Red Cross, however, identified a fatality found at noon yesterday as possibly that of Francis Luis Avian, 27, based on a piece of clothing found on his body.

Avian's sister confirmed that the clothing is her brother's, the statement added.

Another fatality identified by the PNRC was Ferdinand Tabara, 22.

Not safe yet

"It's not safe to just go in there. We are still waiting for the permission of our (Explosives and Ordnance Division) team. We can't take chances. Another explosion might occur and people could get hurt," he said over the phone.

Three bodies were earlier recovered from the house where the explosion took place.

Yarra identified those as Rechilda Suson, her brother Rafael Amongo and Joel Delloso.

He said one of the bodies was recovered several meters away from the house.

He said they received information that Suson rented the house which was apparently used by a syndicate involved in illegal fishing to clandestinely manufacture dynamites. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

SCENE of destruction yields a mangled jeep. RICKY CANTA/CONTRIBUTOR

ENCHANTED NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

A clean and beautiful lake next to Laguna de Bay is previously called Enchanted Lake because it was rarely visited by local and foreign tourists. The people now call it Tadlac Lake.

Gov't urged to allow export of giant clams

BOLINAO, PANGASINAN—A SCIentist involved in the reproduction of giant clams asked the government to allow the sale and export of the once endangered bivalves to other countries so that the culture could be more intensified.

Dr. Edgardo Gomez, former head of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute which has a marine laboratory in this town, said giant clams (*Tridacna gigas*) are already reproducing on their own in the wild.

He said if export is allowed, more fishermen would be lured into culturing the bivalves as they know they can earn more money.

But the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources continues to ban the export, saying the giant clams are still endangered. The Convention on International Treaty on Endangered Species (CITES) listed giant clams among those whose sale is regulated.

"But the CITES only regulates the trade, it does not prohibit it. Unfortunately, Philippine laws interpret the provision more strictly and prohibit the trade of giant clams," Gomez, who started the giant clams project here, said.

While the BFAR bans the trade of giant clams, these are smuggled out of the country, presumably in collusion with the bureau whose permits are needed before any species can be taken out of the country, he said.

"They refuse the legal trade, but illegal trade is happening right under their noses and they are not stopping it," he said.

Smuggled giant clams are harvested from the wild such as those in Cebu, he said.

Aside from the UPMSI, Siliman University is also raising another species of giant clams (*Tridacna crocea*).

There are 54 sites in the country which have been restocked with giant clams, with the seed stocks coming from the UPMSI that started the project 20 years ago here.

Dr. Suzanne Mingoa-Licuanan, leader of the giant clam project, said the *Tridacna gigas* (one of the giant bivalves species) was considered virtually extinct in Philippine waters in the 1985 survey.

The project aimed to restore depleted populations of these large bivalves and to promote giant clam farming as a sustainable livelihood. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

NEWSBRIEFS

2 hurt in Cotabato grenade blast

COTABATO CITY—At least two bystanders were injured in a grenade blast near a gas station here around 9 p.m. Tuesday.

Police said the victims—*trisikad* driver Mohammad Sedik, 16, and car washer Anwarudin Kasan, 28—were just a few meters from the blast site at the corner of SK Pendatun and Quezon Avenues.

Senior Supt. Willie Dangane, city police chief, said three men were invited for questioning but they were later released.

Charlie Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Ex-councilor kills neighbor

STA. MARIA, Davao del Sur—A former village councilor here, who ran and lost during the Oct. 29 elections, went berserk on Monday and killed a neighbor in the process.

SPO4 Elizalde Laput said Loreto Taliño, 30, of San Juan Village, went berserk after an altercation with his wife.

He hacked their animals and, with a home-made shotgun in hand, went out of their house and shot and killed a neighbor, Dionisio Herbolosan. Taliño remained at large and the police were hunting him down, Laput said. *Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

Reb killed in clash with cops

BALANGA CITY—A suspected communist rebel was killed in a clash with policemen who were serving him an arrest warrant in Samal, Bataan, on Oct. 27.

Insp. Sonia Alvarez, intelligence and investigation bureau chief of the Bataan police, said Arturo Tolentino, a suspected member of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, was killed in the 20-minute gunfight in his house in Barangay San Juan, Samal at about 5 a.m.

Alvarez said Tolentino was the prime suspect in the slaying of a Bataan police officer in 2002.

Greg Refraccion and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Cop gunned down in Laguna

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three unidentified gunmen shot dead a policeman in front of his house in Nagcarlan, Laguna on Nov. 3.

Laguna police director Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr. said PO3 Lirio Tengco, 48, assigned to the Bicol Regional Police Office in Legazpi City, died on the spot from several bullet wounds in the body.

He said the killing could be linked to the victim's work as police investigator. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Free concert in Baguio

A FREE musical, dance concert and fashion event will be held on Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Baguio Convention Center in Baguio City. Timmy Cruz, Tina Diaz, Grace Nono with Bob Aves and Joey Ayala will perform and blend their music with natural dance movements from the First Allegro Dancers, the University of the Cordilleras dance troupe and the Shadows from UP-Baguio.

The event titled "Bagong Ako, Bagong Mundo, Bagong Anyo" was organized by the National Delphic Committee, Narda's and the Brahma Kumaris Philippine Foundation with the cooperation of the Baguio City Government and Department of Tourism-Cordillera Region.

Lt. Col. Ponce: NPAs gone in Samar next month

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

CALBIGA, SAMAR—THE TOP military official operating in the southern part of this province vowed to crush the insurgency by next month adding that it would be easy for them to achieve the goal with only few active members of the New People's Army in this part of Samar.

"While the President issued a marching order to end the country's insurgency problem by 2010, I say that we will crush them by December. We can do it. Why should we wait for a long time to end the insurgency problem in our area of responsibility," said Lt. Col. Jonathan Ponce, commanding officer of the 62nd Infantry Battalion based in this town.

Ponce, however, said respect for human rights would not be thrown out as soldiers stage a vigorous campaign to achieve their goal to end the insurgency by next month.

"The soldiers were trained to observe and respect rights of our people. We are cautious about this aspect," Ponce said.

Various human rights groups have accused the military of human rights violations in the course of their campaign to end the country's more than 30 years of insurgency.

Ponce said that, except for a few barangays in Basey and Calbiga, the 10 towns covered by the 62nd IB were already cleared of the presence of the NPA.

He said that the military believed that the rebels were now confined only to the hinterland barangays of Mabini, Guirang and Cancaiyas in Basey and Daligan, Sinantang, Buluan and Guimbanga in Calbiga.

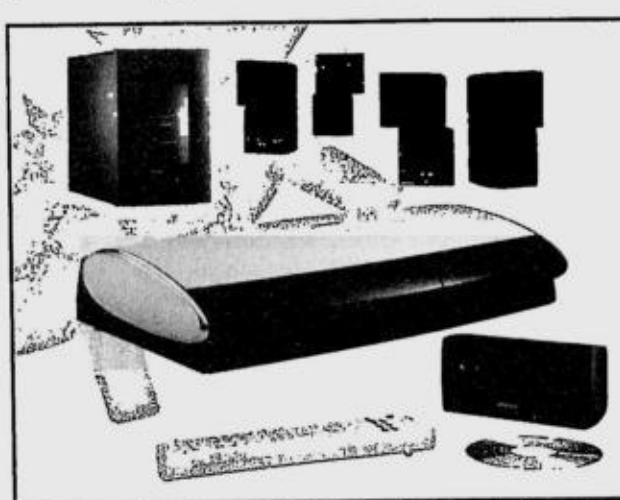
In the case of Barangay Cancaiyas, Ponce said the village has been "recovered" by soldiers, largely due to the strong resistance by the villagers against the rebels. It was in this barangay where Elizabeth Gutierrez, the winning barangay chair candidate, was abducted by the rebels.

Military operations are still ongoing to rescue Gutierrez who is still believed to be alive and held hostage by the rebels. "We will not stop until we rescue her," Ponce said.

Ponce said the information he received indicated there were only 27 fully armed NPA members operating in the area. The rebel group belongs to the Southern Samar Front Command and is believed to be lead by one Lilia Bucatbut alias "Ka Laura."

Ponce said there used to be around 100 fully armed men operating in the Cancaiyas area but because of the military's relentless operations and frequent visit in the barangay, their number steadily declined to just 27.

Ponce said that once they crush the insurgency in Basey, the rebel movement in the entire region would come to its end.



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Bittersweet reunion for Dulce's sisters at St. Scho chapel

By Allison W. Lopez

IT IS A REUNION THAT DULCE Quintans Saguisag did not organize for her family, but her three sisters will always remember her as the vivacious woman who kept them glued together despite geographical odds.

The reunion is taking place at the chapel of St. Scholastica's College in Manila, where Dulce's body, dressed in a beaded gold gown, is lying peacefully in a white coffin.

The third of six siblings, Dulce was yesterday described by her sisters Pat Bernad, Alma Kern and Gina Stacher as gifted with an amazing zest for life.

"I cannot look at her [now] because she really was so full of life. She was so active, so interested in a lot of things. *Ang saya-saya niyang kasama* (It was such fun to be with her) ... I cannot imagine life without her," said Alma, who flew from Seattle immediately after learning of Dulce's sudden death.

Tight-knit still

While Dulce and brother Caloy remained in Manila, Pat was in Dipolog City, Gina in Sydney, Australia, and Chito in Cape Cod (Massachusetts) in the United States.

Still, said Alma, they managed to remain tight-knit by constantly calling, e-mailing, and arranging visits to one another.

"It was she who organized gatherings. We have a lot [of fond memories]. We are so lucky that we're very close; we shared a lot of things and experiences. But the best part of Dulce, the one I'll really miss, is laughing. Her laughter was really infectious. She found humor in the most mundane things," Alma said.

Dulce, she added, had even planned for them to go to Tagaytay in Cavite and Los Baños in Laguna and to hit the beach in Boracay next month, when they fly in for the since rescheduled wedding of Dulce and Rene Saguisag's eldest son, Rebo.

Crowd at the wake

Although Dulce's children kept vigil yesterday at the Makati Medical Center, where their severely injured father is confined, she was never alone.

The Scholastican community—from the Benedictine nuns to little uniformed girls—turned up to whisper prayers for their late alumna. While mostly strangers to the former social welfare secretary, the community's students, teachers and staff took the time to pay their respects.

At the foot of Dulce's coffin stood a huge wreath of yellow flowers from her "'59 gangmates."

Second-grade students were seen lining up to write their names on the visitors' book before saying prayers in front of the coffin. Another list was filled by members of the Scholastican community.

A mass communication junior, Cindy Pestano, said she felt for the Saguisag family because of Dulce's tragic death.

"I'm also very saddened even if I never knew her. I prayed to God for her peace, that she'll be happier, and for her family to accept what happened. I also prayed for Him to guide former Sen. Rene Saguisag," Cindy told the INQUIRER.

'Ora et labora'

Sr. Mary John Mananzan, Mother Prioress of the Benedictine sisters, said she was "very proud" of Dulce who, she said, embodied the life of "Ora et Labora" (prayer and work) espoused by Scholasticans.

"All the prayers of the sisters and the whole school are with her, while our consolation goes to Mr. Saguisag and his family," Mananzan said. "I think this is also a moment of reflection for our students, young as they are, to know the reality of death."

Mananzan added: "I also want to give a message to the people who are so reckless in their driving, without any thought that they will end somebody's life. I hope that it's a lesson for them not to be so reckless ... because life is so precious."

Dulce's sisters said the burial was tentatively scheduled late next week.

The family is still awaiting the arrival of the Saguisags' second child, Lara, from New York.

Rene recovering but still in the dark on wife's fate

From page A1

patient to his son, Rene "Rebo" Saguisag Jr., concerned hospital equipment: "He was mainly asking about things in the surroundings, like 'What are the tubes for? What are the machines for?'"

The doctor said the family had "not yet decided to tell him" about the death of his wife, Dulce, in the early-morning road accident in Makati City on Thursday.

"He will be informed in due time," Alvarez said.

Stable ...

Saguisag's driver, Felipe Calvario, who was also severely injured in the accident, underwent a tracheostomy—a procedure in which a tube is inserted in the trachea—to help him breathe better, Alvarez said.

As far as brain functions are concerned, Calvario, 33, is "in a stable neurological condition, but it will take a little longer for him to recover. He responds to stimuli but he cannot respond as well as someone who's awake," the doctor said.

Both Saguisag and Calvario remain in the MMC's intensive care unit.

Alvarez said that if both men recovered as expected, they might be moved to regular rooms "by next week."

As of yesterday, Saguisag, who has seven cracked ribs on his left side, was breathing through a tube attached to a respirator "mainly for support because of the broken ribs."

"He's breathing on his own. The machine is just helping him breathe better," Alvarez said, adding that the cracked ribs would heal naturally within weeks.

Alvarez said that based on three CT scans, there were "many small clots in the brain which do not need any surgical intervention."

He said the clots would likely be absorbed in the bloodstream.

... But critical

Alvarez said that while Saguisag was stable, his condition was still considered critical.

Pressed to explain, the doctor said: "If we remove the respirator and the tube, he will not be able to breathe properly because of the fractured ribs. It will be painful and his breathing will not be adequate.

"[His condition] is critical because he still needs some support for breathing."

Alvarez said Calvario's condition was somewhat worse than Saguisag's: "As of yesterday, Mr. Calvario was in a worse condition than Attorney Saguisag. But hopefully, he'll be able to bounce back."

Among yesterday's visitors were Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez and former Batangas Rep. Ricky Recto, but both men were unable to enter the ICU.

Alvarez said the MMC's strict policy of not allowing visitors into the ICU was to prevent infections and to allow patients to rest.

"As of now, we don't allow anybody in except when we need the family members," he said.

Forgiveness

Calvario's wife, Arlene, said that even in a time of grief and crisis, the Saguisags had remained calm and forgiving, and had even found it in themselves to console an anguished wife like herself.

"They told me to just think about caring for my husband," Arlene told the INQUIRER yesterday. "They also said they would not abandon us."

She said that owing to the family's kindness, she had taken it upon herself to seek forgiveness from the Saguisag children for whatever her husband might have done wrong, "even if I know that the accident was not his fault."

Arlene is hopeful of her husband's full recovery. "He responds to touch, and a tear sometimes flows from his eye when I talk to him," she said.

Arlene is grappling with another problem—how to tell her husband about the death of Dulce Saguisag, whom he had learned to love and respect.

She said her husband, who had been driving for the family for the past six years, would be devastated to learn that his employer had died in the accident.

"Until he has fully recovered and is out of the hospital, nobody should tell him what happened to Ma'am Dulce," Arlene said.

Arlene and members of her family are alternately watching over Calvario.

"I was urged by the doctors to talk to him always, and to watch out for his responses," the anxious wife said.

Famous

For Manuel Geronimo, the driver of the dump truck that smashed into the Saguisags' van at the Osmeña Highway, just hearing the name of one of the van's passengers was enough to make his knees buckle.

Indeed, Saguisag is famous, not only for his so-called "lost causes" but also for his brief but unblemished track record as a senator.

While being, in his own words, a "perverse contrarian," Saguisag's personal views and convictions do not reflect hopelessness or desperation about the country's future.

"We cannot give up on the only country we have," he often said.

The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism once described him as "still the quixotic dissenter, the quintessential lone voice in the wilderness."

Said Sen. Joker Arroyo: "He will always be for the underdog; money is nothing to him."

One "underdog" whom Saguisag recently defended was deposed President Joseph Estrada, who was convicted by the Sandiganbayan of two counts of plunder, and whom President Macapagal-Arroyo recently pardoned.

'Brightest years'

Senator Arroyo said he admired Saguisag's devotion to the underprivileged, the disadvantaged and the oppressed.

Arroyo said Saguisag's "brightest years" were during the martial law period, when he and other lawyers defended Ferdinand Marcos' critics and other "enemies of the state," such as communist leader Jose Maria Sison.

After serving as spokesperson of candidate and President-elect Corazon Aquino in 1986, Saguisag served as senator from 1987 to 1992. He chaired the Senate committee on ethics and privilege and the ad hoc committee on the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

He attended all 415 session days from July 1987 to 1990, according to the Senate website.

He refused to seek another term and, later, shunned appointments from successive presidents, including a seat in the Supreme Court.

Before the accident, Saguisag was in the news as one of Malacañang's nominees to the Commission on Elections.

"I cannot accept an appointment from an illegitimate President. That's a basic objection," he declared in a TV interview.

Moreover, he said, he was afraid his children would go barefoot because the salary of an election commissioner was only P35,000.

"The government is unable to pay above the level of corruption," he said.

Law, not politics

Saguisag is widely known to dislike politics. But this has not hindered him from commenting on political issues.

"Rene's one love after Dulce is the practice of law, not politics. He hated being in politics. He can't stomach the wheeling and dealing in politics," said Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

It is through his style of presenting his opinions—both to the court and to the public—that he draws scrutiny, leaving admirers awed and critics contemptuous.

"He does what he wants to do; to hell with anyone. He does not care about what others think or say about him," Arroyo said.

The senator added that Saguisag, who writes a weekly column for another newspaper, is "more of a thinker," and that he writes very well. *With a report from Nancy Carvajal*

Dulce's last words: Philip, what happened?

From page A1

Dulce Saguisag and driver Felipe Calvario.

It was the last she heard from the woman she called "Tita" (Aunt), and who, she said, had been like a mother to her.

Obong, 31, said the Saguisags had made it a habit to collect her from her apartment in Barangay Bangkal in Makati City for a dancing session at the Bykes Café on Chino Roces Avenue, and to take her back afterward.

On their way home at past 1 a.m. on Thursday, she was happily chatting with the couple seated behind her and Calvario, craning her neck now and then to make eye contact.

"I saw the traffic light turn green, and then the van moved forward. I did not notice the truck coming toward us," Obong told the INQUIRER yesterday afternoon.

In a faint

Obong recalled fainting as the truck dragged the van for more than 20 meters before coming to a stop, and regaining consciousness with the airbag in her face and herself, still wearing a seatbelt, turned toward the bloodied, unconscious Calvario.

The way she remembered it, even a tiny movement caused pain to pulse through the back of her head, her neck and her limbs.

She said she managed a groggy glance at Dulce, who was slumped to the side and was unmoving.

"Tita was gone. But Sir, I could see he was still breathing. His eyes were closed, but his stomach rose and fell as he breathed," she said.

Obong said the subject of her happy conversation with the Saguisags was an engagement scheduled for last night at the residence of deposed President Joseph Estrada in North Greenhills, San Juan City.

"I was supposed to be part of it. Sir and I were going to dance. We were talking about the plan for Friday," she said.

It was Obong whom rescuers first extricated from the wrecked van, followed by the Saguisags, and then Calvario.

At the Ospital ng Makati, where she was treated for gashes on her face and bruises all over her body, Obong noticed the glass shards on her white blouse and blue jeans.

She was discharged late Thursday afternoon.

Back at the tiny apartment that she shares with two of her brothers, the petite Obong spent most of Thursday night nursing her injuries and trying to sleep off the memory of the crash.

During her interview with the INQUIRER, she moved slowly and gingerly, the large bruises on her legs and thighs slowly taking on an ugly eggplant color on her bronzed skin.

She was extra careful in moving her neck, saying the slightest movement triggered waves of pain at the back of her head.

Her medication consists of an antibiotic and a pain killer.

Skillful dancers

Obong said the Saguisags loved to dance and were skillful dancers. Their usual sessions were on Wednesday and Friday nights, from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

While Dulce was her Tita, Obong reserved a playful "Lolo" (Grandpa) for Rene. The former senator would sometimes feign irritation, and the dance instructor would then revert to the respectful "Sir."

"Sir's" favorites were the boogie and the tango.

On special occasions like birthday parties and other socials, Obong was often invited to be Rene's dancing partner while Dulce paired up with a male instructor.

But her relationship with the Saguisags went beyond ballroom dancing. "We were very close," she said, recalling that she occasionally whipped up a dessert of fruit gelatin to give to the couple.

"I was their favorite," she declared, "probably because I've been with them for so long."

11 years

The Saguisags met their dance instructor 11 years ago at the Hotel InterContinental in Makati.

Obong fondly recalled dancing a boogie with Rene, and consciously moving to impress.

Her effort paid off: "After we danced, Sir said we should dance again."

It was the start of something good, which ended on that early Thursday morning.

Speaking in a voice suddenly hoarse, Obong summed up her affection for the couple: "*Napakasayang. Napakabait nila sa akin* (It's such a shame. They were so good to me)."

Artists to NPC: You own mural, we have copyright

From page A1

mural displayed at the NPC. "So many things have been said. We will no longer touch the mural. It is no longer our fault."

However, he said their group was open to any discussion with the NPC to resolve the controversy even as NPC officials have expressed their intention to press charges of estafa and breach of contract against the NAAC.

Gappi said it was well within the rights of the NPC to file charges if it feels it has been aggrieved.

Not communists

For his part, NAAC board director Ian Lomongo denied that their group was left-leaning, saying they only wanted to express the truth in their mural. "We are for the truth. We are God-fearing. We are patriots," he said.

Lomongo admitted they were also at fault but pointed out that it was the NPC that first breached the agreement on the press freedom mural. He, however, did not elaborate on how the NPC supposedly violated the contract.

The NAAC director likewise took offense at the NPC charge that the group was being overly materialistic and accepted the commission simply for the love of money.

Don't buy the mural

Lomongo clarified that the artists accepted the NPC commission for the mural because they needed funds for their numerous art workshop projects as well as the organization of the Neo-Angono Public Arts Festival scheduled late this month.

Meanwhile, the militant fisherfolk alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) has asked the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER to turn down NPC's offer for it to buy the controversial press freedom mural.

In a press statement released yesterday, Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz said that if the INQUIRER procures the "bastardized" and "desecrated" mural, the newspaper would be reduced to a buyer of "a prostituted work of art" done to please and appease the resident sponsor in Malacañang.

"The repressed mural on press freedom is not worth a single centavo. It cannot even be classified as a work of art worthy to join the country's modern-day art collection. It would be better if the INQUIRER uses the money for the Christmas bonuses of its reporters and staff, rather than spend hard-earned profits on trash," Corpuz said.

He suggested that the NPC leave the painting in the press club office in Intramuros so the public can view the distorted mural on press freedom.

Reminder

"The purpose is to remind the Filipino people that President Macapagal-Arroyo is the No. 1 enemy of press freedom and that she would do anything, everything, to stop any kind of protest art against her regime," Corpuz said.

The Pamalakaya officer also suggested that the President herself purchase the controversial mural.

"It is no longer a mural about press freedom. The mural is now all about censorship and gross violation of press freedom authored, painted and scripted by the present NPC grandmother in Malacañang. So why not sell it to Mrs. Arroyo, instead of peddling this abominable art to the public?" Corpuz said.

NPC secretary Louie Logarta on Thursday said the press organization was selling the "bastardized" mural.

Looks familiar

Logarta, a former NPC president, offered the artwork to the INQUIRER because the mural featured several personalities who worked or are still working for the newspaper.

He pointed to two figures on the mural—one was supposed to be the newspaper's founding chair, Eugenia Apostol and the other, its current editor in chief, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc.

In addition, Logarta said, there's an image of a man who looks like INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronilla.

Three other INQUIRER columnists on the painting are Randy David, Juan Mercado and Conrado de Quiros.

Logarta said the controversial mural on press freedom has potential buyers but declined to reveal their names.

He said contributions from NPC officials and other donors paid for the artwork.

Logarta reportedly shelled out P80,000 from his pocket. The others who contributed were Hataw publisher and NPC director Jerry Yap, P300,000, and NPC vice president Benny Antiporda, P 150,000.

Bustamantes triumph

Joven drops Kabawata; Django ousts Pagulayan

By Musong R. Castillo

STRUGGLING THROUGHOUT THE MATCH, Joven Bustamante needed a spark. He found them in the memory of the heavyweights he conquered to get this far.

In what he described as his worst performance in the World Pool Championship, Bustamante gutted out an 11-9 decision of Satoshi Kabawata of Japan last night to make the quarterfinals of the $400,000 tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

"*Talaga lang sigurong matapang ako* (Maybe it's just because I am naturally courageous)," the 29-year-old cue artist told the INQUIRER. "*Sa sama ng laro ko, hindi ko din alam kung paano ako nanalo* (I really don't know how I won given how bad I played)."

Bustamante, who upset 2005 champion Wu Chia-ching on Thursday, scratched on four occasions, trailed by two racks twice and even made one blunder on the 9-ball before scraping through to earn a seat in the Last 8 opposite Karl Boyes.

"*Saka inisip ko din, kung si* Dennis [Orcollo] *at* Wu *tinalo ko, siya pa kaya* (And then I thought, if I was able to beat Orcullo and Wu, I can also do it to Kawabata)."

The 25-year-old Englishman Boyes had an easier time, disposing of European No. 1 Konstantin Stepanov, 11-4, to earn a shot at the giant-killing Filipino today.

"At the start, my target was just to make the Top 8," Bustamante, an Electrical Engineering undergraduate who claimed Orcollo's scalp in the first round, added in Filipino.

"But now that I am here, I'll try to go all the way, because more than anything, this is for the country now."

Another Bustamante, the more established Django, was also through to the Last 8 after ripping countryman Alex Pagulayan to shreds, 11-2. He will next battle either England's Daryl Peach or Harald Stolka of Germany.

Mika Immonen, the 2001 champion, also marched on after an 11-8 win over Alain Martel of Canada. The third Filipino left in the draw—Robert Gomez—was still playing Niels Fiejen at presstime.

Django, who beat Nick Van de Berg Thursday, displayed mean form, breaking away from a 2-2 tie and winning nine straight racks against Pagulayan, the 2005 winner.

"I'm not frustrated, because I lost to the guy who I predicted would win this tournament," Pagulayan said, before comically adding, "if he doesn't win, I'll burn his car."

The quarterfinals and the semifinals will be played today starting 10:30 a.m.

JOVEN Bustamante AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Loss forces Wu to contemplate his future

By Musong R. Castillo

WU CHIA-CHING might give one the impression that he is a spoiled, teen sports superstar.

But the guy talks a lot of sense, belying a maturity uncommon among those his age, especially those with his type of fame.

Just minutes after tumbling out of the $400,000 World Pool Championship in the Last 32 Thursday night against Filipino Joven Bustamante, the INQUIRER caught up with Wu at the Araneta Coliseum walkway, cigarette in hand and pondering on his future.

WU: Half-ready

He showed none of the arrogance common in some super athletes and most certainly none of the nonsense most accomplished boys his age usually come up with.

"This loss only made me think of what tournaments I should play in starting next year," Wu said through a Singaporean scribe who acted as interpreter. "This is the biggest tournament in the world and I came over here half-ready."

Wu clarified that he lost to Bustamante fair and square. But he really felt that he could have done better had the Pool Association of Taiwan not messed up his preparations.

"I was made to play in the Asian Indoor Championships in Macau, that's where I came from," Wu said. "I failed to recover my confidence and form because of that tournament. And I failed to play well there because my mind was in Manila."

Wu's Last 32 exit was his earliest since ruling the event as a 16-year-old in 2005.

"I'm sure my countrymen (back home) are not that saddened (by my loss)," Wu said.

At 18 and definitely with a lot more room for improvement, a lot regard Wu as the next Asian pool star in the world, following the footsteps of Filipino legend Efren "Bata" Reyes.

"I don't think so," Wu humbly said. "Maybe because I'm young, there is the chance that I might be able to catch up with Efren in terms of skills. But he has done so much for the sport in your country that I can't really do in Taiwan.

"It will all actually depend on how big the game (of pool) becomes (in Taiwan)," Wu added. "If it becomes as big the way Efren made it for you (the Philippines, when Reyes won in 1999 in Cardiff), then I can really be a star."

ARMM cops return Bedol arrest warrant unserved

From page A1

somehow, be easier.

Goltiao said the police in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) had returned to the Commission on Elections—unserved—the arrest warrant for Lintang Bedol but that they had not stopped looking for him.

"It seems he is one step ahead of us," the police commander for the ARMM said yesterday, two weeks after the Comelec issued a warrant of arrest for the Maguindanao election supervisor.

"He is now hiding, and that's the problem. If he isn't hiding, we would have had him by now," Goltiao told the INQUIRER.

Election lawyer Leila de Lima, who has confronted Bedol over the issue of cheating in the May senatorial elections, smells conspiracy.

Someone got him out

"This is Garci escapade part two," De Lima said. "If he is out of the country already, I don't believe that he did it by himself, *may nagpatakas diyan* (someone got him out). People are behind it."

De Lima was referring to the disappearing act which former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano pulled in 2005 after he and President Macapagal-Arroyo were accused of conspiring to rig the results of the 2004 presidential election.

The Comelec ordered Bedol's arrest after convicting him of indirect contempt for his failure to appear at hearings on allegations about cheating in the senatorial elections in his area.

Search goes on

"We have not received any orders to terminate the search," Goltiao said. "We also put in writing all the circumstances surrounding the serving of the warrant."

He said the police did their best to locate Bedol.

Earlier, Goltiao theorized that Bedol was no longer in the ARMM region, otherwise they would have been able to monitor his movements.

BEDOL

Tougher Comelec action

Goltiao denied reports that the seemingly slippery poll official was in military or police custody.

Goltiao had said his men went to Bedol's residence in Cotabato City last Oct. 30 to serve the warrant but he was not around. Bedol's wife said her husband left their house a few days earlier in the company of armed men.

Election lawyer Sixto Brillantes said the Comelec should not have allowed Bedol to get out on bail, or should have imposed a bail stiffer than the P15,000 it had set.

"The Comelec should have anticipated that Bedol would not allow himself to be incarcerated for six months," Brillantes said.

Record of disappearing

"The Comelec should not have allowed him to go, given his record of disappearing in Maguindanao. They should not have allowed him to go back to Maguindanao because that is his territory," said Brillantes.

The Comelec regional director for the National Capital Region, Ferdinand Rafanan, said the poll body had done its part.

"Bedol's evasion of arrest is not a lapse on the part of the Comelec. It is a purely police matter now," he said.

Bedol's lawyer, Andrei Bon Tagum, professed his own ignorance of his client's whereabouts.

"Your guess is as good as mine," he said.

Last phone talk

Tagum said his last phone conversation with Bedol was last week when they talked about Bedol's options under the law following the order for his arrest.

He said he had advised his client to wait for the Supreme Court ruling on their pending appeal on his contempt charges before the Comelec.

"We only talked about legal matters. As his lawyer, I will not tell him to evade arrest. It will be unethical for a lawyer to do that," Tagum said.

He said Bedol had not contacted him since and he had been unreachable by phone for the past few days.

Tagum dismissed speculation that Bedol was under the protective custody of powerful political backers in Maguindanao.

"Jumping into those conclusions will only mean that he's responsible for the fact that he is missing. We must consider other possibilities," Tagum said.

Tagalog language courses most attended in US university

From page A1

pine mother tongue is studied with intense focus, attracting more students than any other Southeast Asian language course on offer.

For eight years now, Tagalog courses have been offered at the University of Washington (UW), revived after a long absence because of the demand of the Filipino community here. Filipino language classes are taught at the university's Department of American Ethnic Studies.

Most attended

While they have yet to become a permanent feature of the university curriculum, the Tagalog courses are now the most well-attended Southeast Asian language classes at the university, attracting more enrollees than Vietnamese, Thai, Indonesian and Burmese language courses.

Taught at three levels to suit a range of language competencies, the Tagalog courses currently have 60 enrollees: 40 attend the elementary course, 15 are in the intermediate class, and five in the advanced class.

"I think this is a good indication that more and more students are becoming interested in learning about the Philippines. I have at least five students in both my advanced and intermediate [classes] who are interested in pursuing their Ph.D. field studies in the Philippines," said Jiedson Domigpe, the UW's only Filipino language instructor.

Int'l studies

By comparison, three levels of Vietnamese courses have 50 students, Thai has 33, Bahasa Indonesia has 22 and Burmese has four students, said Thomas Gething, associate dean at the UW's Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies Southeast Asia Center (JSIS-SEAC) at a recent press briefing here.

"It is through the study of language that students are able to learn the culture of the people who speak that language. Language fluency permits direct cultural learning without the filter of a translation. Indeed, all of our international studies programs require language study," Gething said.

10-week course

The Tagalog courses are taught for 10 weeks in hourlong classes, Mondays through Fridays.

"The [elementary] course is primarily a structure-based curriculum where students learn different grammatical structures of the language while getting exposure to Filipino culture," said Domigpe.

The intermediate and advanced classes are more topic-based, covering Philippine history, culture and current events," Domigpe explained in an e-mail message.

Making a comeback

According to Filipino-American Enrique Bonus, an associate professor in the American Ethnic Studies department, Filipino courses are making a comeback after they ceased to be offered after the 1970s and 1980s.

"When I was hired at UW in 2000, a number of Filipino American students brought my attention to the lack of regular courses in the Tagalog language," Bonus said in an e-mail message.

UW students of Filipino heritage, many of them with the Filipino-American Students Association, initiated meetings with deans, backed by "several supportive faculty, staff and community members," he said.

"The most important argument we offered was that Tagalog is a legitimate field of study that is offered in our peer institutions. This enabled the deans to eventually provide funding for Tagalog courses, but only to fill in half of the funding the UW gets from the US Department of Education," Bonus said.

Growing interest

The level of attendance in the UW's Tagalog courses is proof of the growing international interest in the Philippines, Domigpe said.

Most of the students that the courses attract are of Filipino lineage, but Domigpe said he has one Chinese and one Vietnamese student while seven others are Anglo (English-speaking Caucasians).

"Most of the Filipino-Americans take the class because they either want to visit the Philippines or want to communicate with their relatives, grandparents in particular. A small portion of these students are interested in going to the Philippines for medical school and summer internships," Domigpe explained.

"Most of the Anglo students take Tagalog because they want to conduct research in the Philippines or they are somehow involved in Filipino organizations on campus," said Domigpe.

Filipino professors

Domigpe credits Filipino professors at the UW—Bonus, Francisco Benitez for comparative literature, Vicente Rafael for history and Butch de Castro for nursing—for helping generate interest in the Philippines, its language, people and culture.

"I think these professors have brought a great deal of interest to the Tagalog program not only because of their expertise, but also because they are very supportive of and personable with their students. This also helps the program grow through referrals and good reviews," he said.

Domigpe and Bonus hope the courses will become a permanent part of the curriculum, meaning the university would take on full funding for them.

Domigpe would also like to jump-start a Filipino newsletter at the UW, one that would feature students' articles in both Filipino and English.

He hopes the newsletter will create a medium for the discussion of issues relevant to a shared Filipino heritage and create a greater sense of community among Filipinos and Filipino-Americans around the UW campus.

Stories on World Pool Championships on A19

Late SPORTS

More Sports stories on A25 to 28

Purefoods keeps unbeaten streak

GAME TODAY (*Lagao Gym, General Santos City*)
5 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Sta. Lucia

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—FOR MOST OF THE fourth quarter, a variety of Purefoods Giants got together and took turns beating up the Coca-Cola Tigers.

Then as the shots began to miss amid a furious rally by the Tigers, the league-leaders decided to put their fate on the shoulders of a familiar name.

And as usual, James Yap responded.

The former MVP drained a jumper just inside the three-point arc with six seconds remaining to seal Purefoods' sixth straight victory, 88-86 over Coca-Cola, last night in the Smart PBA Philippine Cup at the Ynares Center.

Yap's basket ended a Purefoods drought over a span of three and a half minutes and also a Coca-Cola rally that rattled off 13 straight points in that same stretch in a bid to be the first team to deal the Giants a loss this season.

The Tigers dropped to 1-4 after controlling the first half and staying in step with the Giants in the second. The only time Coca-Cola lost its grip on the game was when John Arigo left the court on an injury halfway through the fourth and Purefoods took advantage with a run that erected an 86-73 lead.

James Yap, Roger Yap, Kerby Raymundo and Marc Pingris all contributed to that run, but none of them could make a basket after that, until James' game-winner.

The Tigers uncorked 13 straight points capped by a triple from Alex Cabagnot that banked off the glass and knotted the count at 86 with 26 ticks left. But it was Cabagnot who missed at the buzzer to seal Coca-Cola's doom.

In the first game, Magnolia also looked for a hero and found one in a rookie it drafted to provide its talent-rich squad something to look forward to in the future.

Six-foot-nine Samigue Eman towered his way to 16 points, built around flawless shooting, and a conference-high five blocks to lead the Beverage Masters to a 112-108 victory over the Alaska Aces.

The scores:

First Game

MAGNOLIA 112—Selgie 20, Eman 16, Tugade 14, Ildefonso 12, Hontiveros 11, Tenorio 10, Gonzales 10, E. Villanueva 9, J. Villanueva 5, Fonacier 5, Racela 0.

ALASKA 108—Miller 28, Cortez 17, Hugnatan 16, Ferriols 12, Laure 10, Bono 9, Thoss 9, Cariaso 5, Dela Cruz 2, Capus 0.

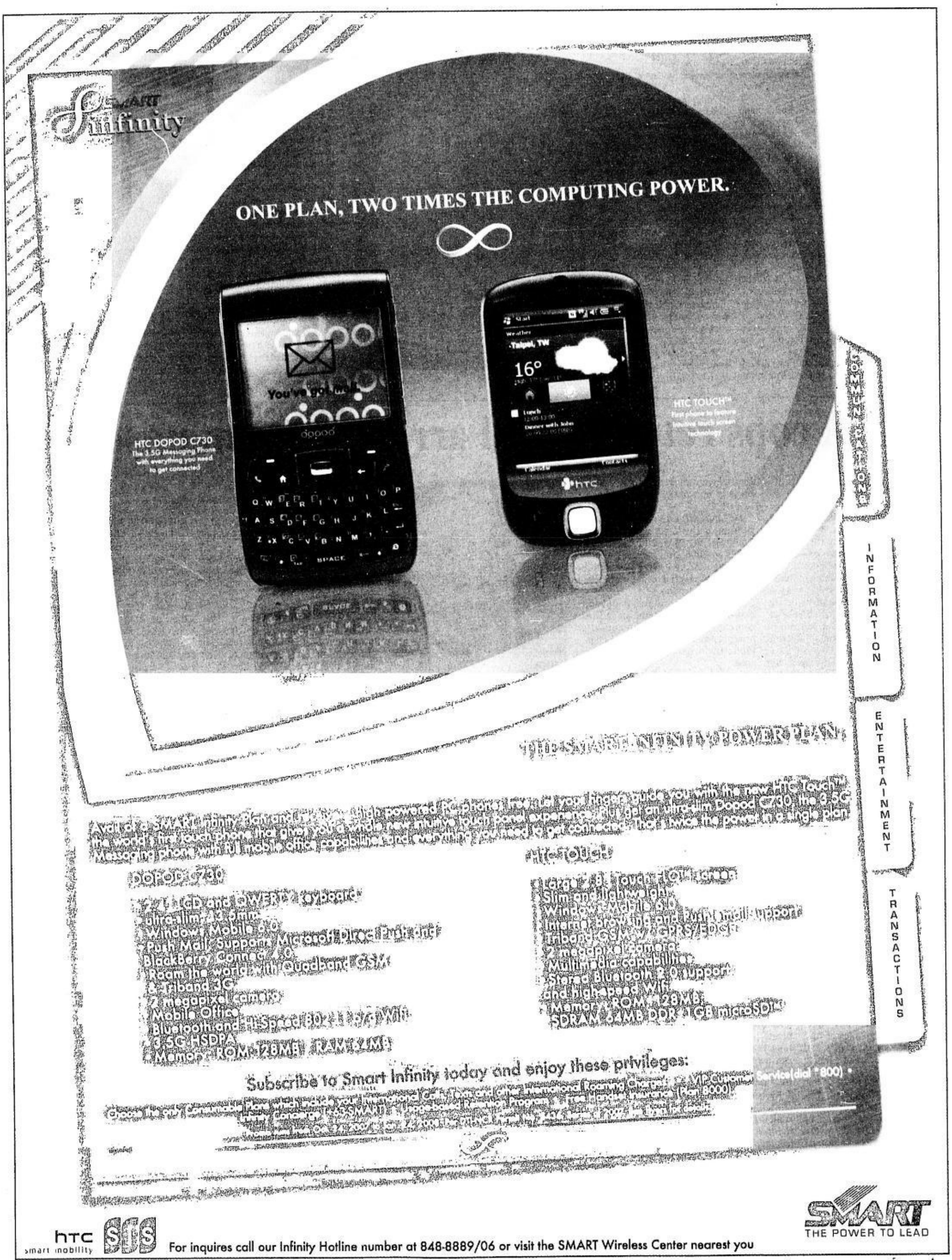
Quarters: 21-27, 47-48, 76-all, 112-108

Second Game

PUREFOODS 88—Raymundo 21, Yap 19, Simon 11, Pingris 8, Adducul 8, Salvador 7, Yap 6, Sanz 3, Laneta 3, Cablay 2, Larong 0, Yee 0.

COCA-COLA 86—Arigo 19, Cabagnot 15, Buenafe 14, Islip 9, Peek 7, Catli 6, Tolomia 6, Enrile 4, Telan 4, Caceres 2, Calimag 0.

Quarters: 21-17, 38-40, 63-60, 88-86



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Dynamite found near Manila dorm

Cops to look into possible links to Cavite explosion

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA POLICEMEN FOUND AT AROUND 7:30 a.m. yesterday explosives capable of destroying a 20-story building.

Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, Manila Police District director, said his men discovered two boxes containing 150 pieces of dynamite sticks and several time-fuse and blasting caps on A. Lacson Street between Dapitan and Laon Laan Streets, near a dormitory in Sampaloc.

Each dynamite stick had a yield equivalent to one hand grenade, Rosales said.

"But if they're bundled together, the yield doubles. So, all in all, the 150 sticks have a yield of 300 hand grenades, enough to destroy a 20-story building," Rosales told the INQUIRER.

Prior to the discovery of the explosives, a desk officer at the University Belt Area Police Community Precinct received a call that two boxes were left by an old woman near the Holy Family Dormitory along Laong Laan St.

Members of the MPD Explosives and Ordnance Division, along with K9 units, immediately secured the area. "Considering the weight of the boxes, I'm sure she (the old woman) was not alone," Rosales said. The area where the explosives were found could only be a drop off point, he added. "It's possible that somebody else was supposed to pick up the boxes."

Rosales said whoever left the dynamites did not intend to explode them. "The explosives were not armed, meaning they were unassembled, at the time of the discovery."

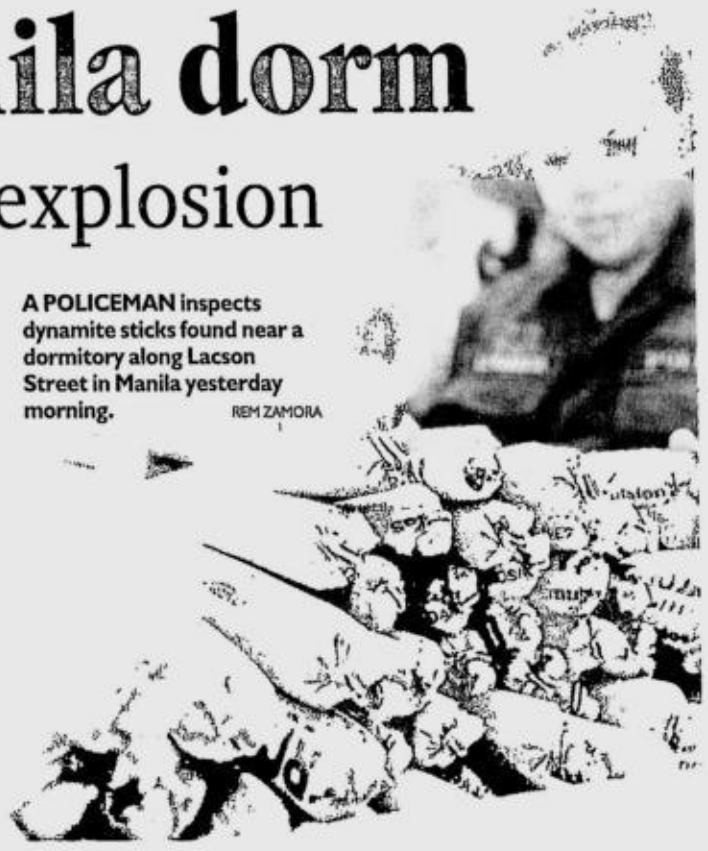
He said the dynamites were commercially available and used for quarrying and mining.

On Thursday afternoon, four people were killed and a dozen injured during an explosion in a house suspected of manufacturing dynamite in a subdivision in Bacoor, Cavite province.

Rosales said they were not discounting the possibility that the explosives in Manila were connected to the Cavite incident.

"But right now our investigation is focused on determining the identity of the old woman and her associates," the MPD chief said.

He added that the MPD was coordinating with the Firearms and Explosives Division in Camp Crame in identifying the explosives' end-user.



A POLICEMAN inspects dynamite sticks found near a dormitory along Lacson Street in Manila yesterday morning. REM ZAMORA

Navotas confiscates 2,000 kilos of illegally caught fish

By Nancy Carvajal

SOME 2,000 KILOS OR 103 boxes of illegally caught fish were confiscated yesterday at the Navotas City Fish Port.

Mayor Toby Tiangco said two consignees or fish broker stores found to be openly selling illegally caught fish were also closed on Thursday following a surprise inspection at Market 3 of the complex.

"This is a strong warning to those engaged in illegal fishing activities. Either you stop now or we will go after you. No one is exempted from the law," Tiangco said.

He said the local government would reactivate its campaign for the protection of the coastal town's marine resources and environment.

The raid, Tiangco said, was also a warning to fishermen using illegal means to stop.

He said that while local government's efforts to stop illegal fishing were occasionally derailed by ineffective fisheries laws, "no one is above the law. There's always a way to get them (violators) if they committed an illegal act."

Tiangco, with representatives of the City Agriculture and Police departments, inspected the fish port to show that the local government was serious in its campaign against dynamite fishing.

Based on a report of Joebe Gonzales, city agriculture officer, 1,854 kilos of assorted fish were seized from Eddie K and Nene Scorpio stores.

"We will not hesitate to close down any establishment selling illegally caught marine products," said Tiangco.

He added that the seized fish was given to various jails in the cities of Navotas, Malabon and Caloocan, through the non-government organization Fisher Folk Action Center.

Dynamites or improvised explosives are commonly used in illegal fishing. Blast or dynamite fishing is described by experts as extremely destructive to the marine ecosystem.

Waste market goes to Sucat today

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE MOVEABLE WASTE MARket that lets people trade in trash for new, usable and earth-friendly items will be open today at the SM Sucat mall Building A open parking lot in Parañaque City.

City Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. urged residents and businesses to participate in the event.

He said the day-long market aimed to promote proper disposal of all kinds of waste.

The market, he said, would let residents dispose of unneeded material by trading or selling it to companies that can recycle or reuse it.

"The waste recycling procedure is in its infancy here, but hopefully, this will jump-start local initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle. This will ultimately benefit our environment," Bernabe said.

Participants may trade scrap paper and cardboard for new bathroom tissue, table napkins, bond paper and notebooks. Empty ink and toner cartridges can be exchanged for quality remanufactured ones.

Plastic bottles and other items may be exchanged for household items like hangers, basins and pails.

A free health checkup coupon in the city's health centers, for instance, is equivalent to two used lead acid batteries.

Bernabe pointed out that the SM Sucat Waste Market would also be a drop-off area for polystyrene and styrofoam scrap, old cellular phones and batteries, and other trash.

Residents can also sell junk electrical equipment, old or broken appliances, aluminum or tin cans, scrap paper and cartons, and used ink/toner cartridges.

Other items such as used lead acid batteries from cars, uninterrupted power supply (UPS) gadgets and voltage regulators, busted rechargeable lamps can also be sold.

"Let us think global but act local to help our environment," Bernabe said as he urged residents to participate in the day-long affair.

The SM Sucat Waste Market is organized by SM Sucat Management, SM SuperMalls, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Philippine Business for the Environment, in cooperation with the city government.

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2 injured in 10-car pileup in Pasig City

By Kristine L. Alave

A TEN-CAR PILEUP CAUSED BY A 14-wheeler truck with faulty brakes left two people injured yesterday afternoon on Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

SPO3 Alex Galang of the Pasig City police said the incident occurred on Ortigas Ave. corner Lanuza St. at about 12:45 p.m. He identified the victims as Rodel Vega, 22, and Susan Guanzon, 38, both Pasig residents.

The two, Galang said, sustained minor injuries and were discharged from the hospital the same day.

A police investigation showed the 14-wheeler truck, with plate number PVX-291 and driven by Pedro Cruz, 64, lost its brakes and rammed into an FX vehicle with plate number ZBW-931.

Galang said the truck, which was carrying metal parts and equipment, on its way to C-5 Avenue. The sloping portion of the thoroughfare caused the driver to lose control of the vehicle, the investigator said.

The truck also damaged four vehicles and one motorcycle that were waiting for the light to change. Five other vehicles were also wrecked after colliding with other cars.

Galang estimated the damage to be at least P300,000. Cruz was brought to the police station for further investigation.

Man causes disturbance at MRT

By Marlet D. Salazar

METRO RAIL TRANSIT COMMUTERS at the Quezon Avenue station in Quezon City were caught in a commotion at rush hour yesterday morning when a man began shouting at the top of his voice, sending jitters throughout the transport facility.

The still unidentified man allegedly shouted incoherent phrases at around 7:15 a.m., prompting passengers to head to the exits in panic. Several passengers were hurt as crowds jostled and pushed their way to the stairs.

Lysa Blancaflor, MRT public relations officer, said they suspect the man was a pickpocket who wanted to get away or else was impatient about queuing up.

The man who caused the disturbance fled immediately during the commotion, according to the guards at the station.

Pinoys consider civic duty a burden

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE ROAD MISHAP EARLY THURSday at the intersection of Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) and Osmeña Highway (formerly South Superhighway) would just have been a common occurrence if not for the victims, prominent personalities both.

It was just unfortunate that the accident that was waiting to happen claimed the life of Dulce, wife of former Sen. Rene Saguisag, and also critically injured him and two others.

Why do I say that the accident was waiting to happen? Because most Filipino drivers and motorists don't respect traffic lights; they pass a red light when no traffic policeman is around.

Beating or passing the red light seems to be a game to most drivers or motorists. They think it's fun to beat or pass a red light as if they're playing hide-and-seek with the cops.

What they don't know is that an infraction done again and again becomes a habit. And so, even when danger lurks at the intersection, they become oblivious to it because the habit has been ingrained in them.

One may get away with a violation most of the time, but he doesn't get away with it most of the time.

That's the law of averages; even a consistent winner also loses.

The truck driver who tried to beat the red light—I'm basing my assumption on the account of the taxi driver who witnessed the accident—was probably overtaken by the law of averages.

The truck driver probably thought that since nothing happened when he beat or passed a red light in the past, he would get away with the same violation that early Thursday morning.

***

The taxi driver, identified as Jeofrey Olmoges in the INQUIRER report yesterday, said he saw the truck hurtling toward the van that the Saguisags were riding in.

The van crossed the intersection on a green light, according to Olmoges, and the dump truck was supposed to have stopped because the red light was on.

Olmoges said he tried to get down from his cab to help the passengers of the ill-fated van but was prevented by his passenger, a call center agent, from doing so and was told to proceed to his destination in Bicutan, Taguig City.

The call center agent is like most Pinoys who don't want to help others even when the situation demands it. As long as he or those close to him are not directly affected, a Pinoy won't get involved.

That's the reason we have criminals walking around free because people who witnessed their crimes are afraid to testify.

Most Pinoys consider doing civic duty a burden.

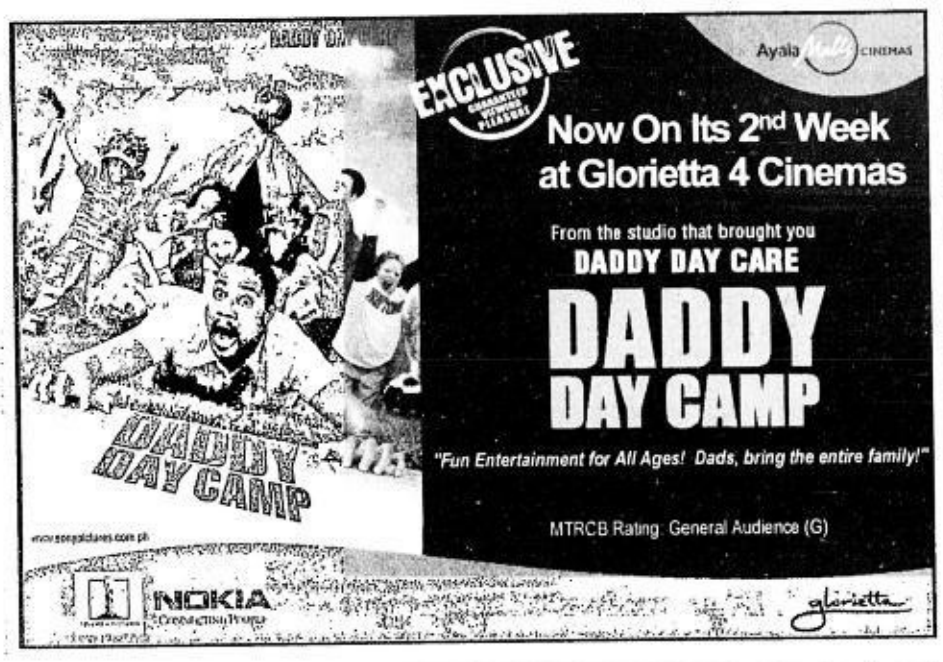
METROBRIEFS

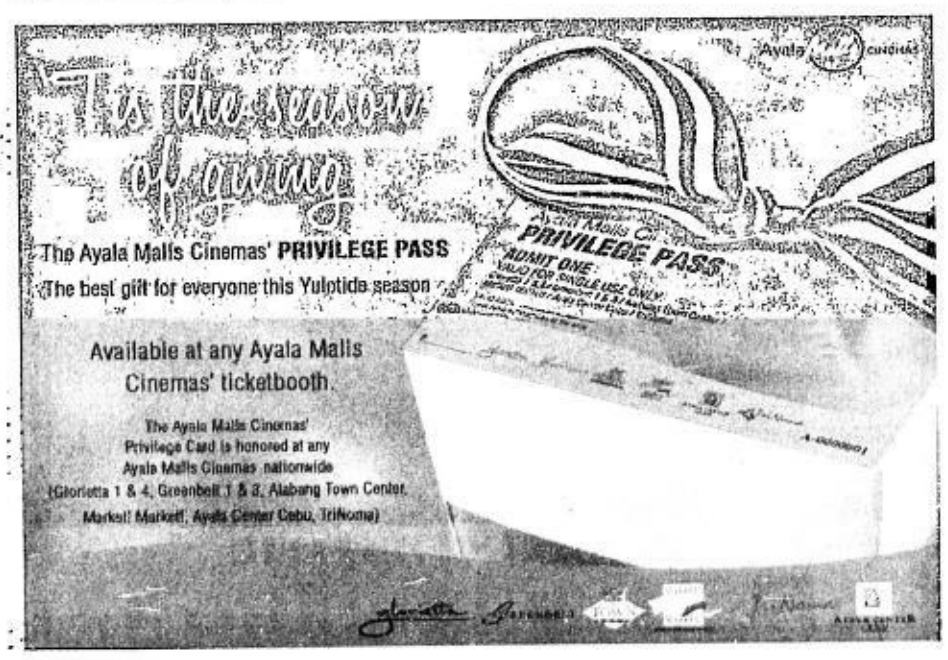
Kerygma confab

THE COUNTRY'S leading charismatic priests will celebrate the Masses for the Kerygma conference, this year's biggest inspirational event, to be led by Preacher in Blue Jeans Bo Sanchez, at the Ultra in Pasig City, Nov. 23, 24 and 25. Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, leads the Opening Mass on Day 1 of the conference. Other guests are Bishop Teodoro Bacani, healer-priest Fr. Joey Faller and missionary priests Fr. Joseph Skelton of the United States and Fr. Steve Tynan of Australia. The conference addresses persons who suffer hunger, weakness and imprisonment of the spirit even in the midst or perhaps because of the raging technology revolution.

UP Law '82 reunion

THE CLASS of 1982 returns home to the UP College of Law in Diliman, Quezon City with a three-day program marking its silver jubilee from Nov. 12-17 to be held at the Diliman campus, on the street fronting Malcolm Hall, alongside the Sunken Garden. Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno will deliver the keynote speech. For inquiries, contact the UP Law Homecoming Secretariat, tel. no. 723-9596 / telefax 726-2334, or email uplawhomecoming07@gmail.com.





The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bhutto under house arrest, 5,000 supporters detained

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—PAKISTANI POLICE backed by armored vehicles detained opposition leader Benazir Bhutto at her Islamabad residence Friday and reportedly rounded up 5,000 of her supporters to block a mass protest against emergency rule.

Authorities said a ban on public gatherings would be enforced and the rally Bhutto planned later Friday in Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, would not go ahead. The city's mayor also said there was a "credible report" that six or seven suicide bombers were preparing to attack the rally.

The crackdown showed that a week after suspending the constitution, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf was not letting up on his political rivals despite saying Thursday that parliamentary elections would go ahead by mid-February, just a month later than originally planned. His announcement came after intense pressure from the United States, his chief international supporter.

Friday's moves will further sour relations with Bhutto, a former prime minister, and hurt the prospects of the two pro-Western leaders forming a post-election alliance against religious extremism.

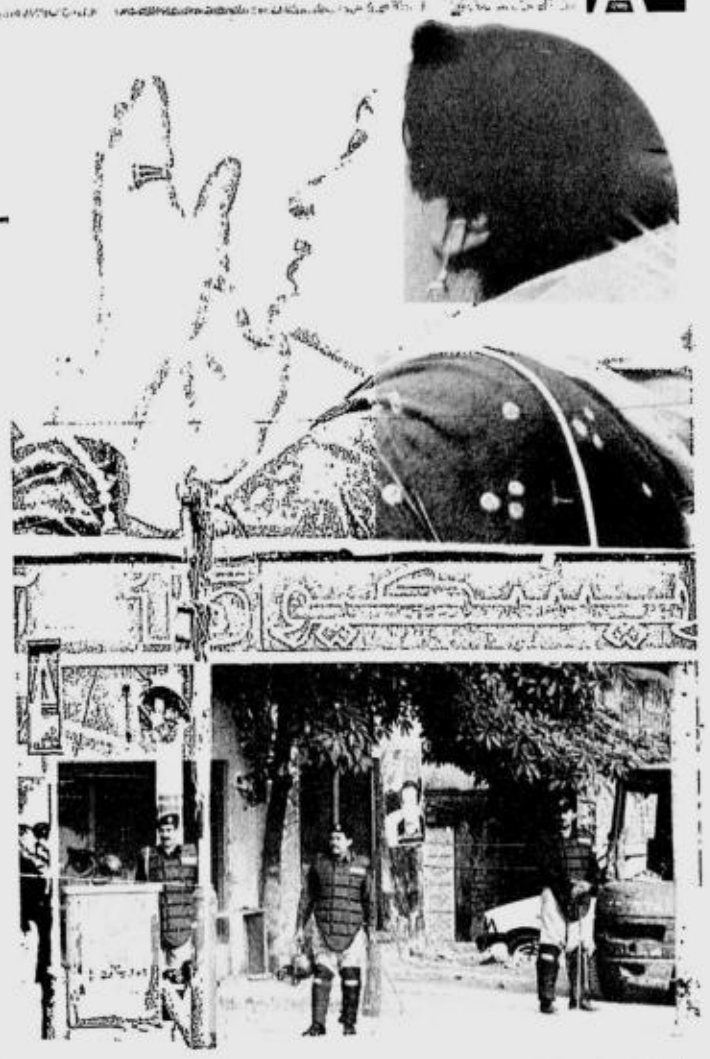
"We condemn this government move. It shows that the government is scared of Benazir Bhutto's popularity and it does not want her to be among masses," said Sen. Babar Awan, Bhutto's lawyer.

Bhutto's decision to join in antigovernment protests against Musharraf is another blow to the military leader whose popularity has plummeted this year amid growing resentment of military rule and failure by his government to curb increasing violence by Islamic militants.

Critics say that Musharraf—who seized power in a 1999 coup—declared the emergency and ousted independent-minded judges to maintain his own grip on power. The moves came days before the Supreme Court was expected to rule on whether his recent reelection as president was legal.

Musharraf said the declaration of emergency last Saturday was needed to put an end to political instability and to fight Taliban and al-Qaida-linked militants.

But most of the thousands of people rounded up countrywide have been moderates—lawyers and activists from secular opposition parties. Police have used batons and tear gas to squash attempts by lawyers to protest. Hundreds of students have also staged demonstrations on university campuses. *AP*



PAKISTANI riot police stand guard under a billboard showing Bhutto ahead of her rally against emergency rule on Nov. 9 in Rawalpindi. AP

Toxic toy downs 4th Aussie kid

JACOB Esses, 20 months, at his home in Jacksonville, Ark., Sept. 3. His mother said Jacob began to stumble and started vomiting. He had just ingested a popular toy that contains a chemical that turns into a powerful "date rape" drug when eaten. AP

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—THE Australian company behind a popular Chinese-made toy found to contain a chemical that converts into a potentially fatal drug when ingested said Friday it was investigating how the toxin ended up in its product.

An 18-month-old boy became the fourth child hospitalized in Australia in recent weeks when he collapsed after eating the toy.

Retailers have pulled millions of the toys, known as Bindeez in Australia and Aqua Dots in the United States, from their shelves this week after scientists found the products contain a chemical that converts into the so-called "date rape" drug gamma hydroxy butyrate when ingested.

The toy, which is produced in China by Australia-based Moose Enterprises, contains colorful beads that can be arranged into designs and fused when sprayed with water.

According to a product description, the toys were supposed to be coated with 1,5-pentanediol, a nontoxic compound found in glue, but instead contained 1,4-butanediol, a potentially harmful chemical widely used in cleaners and plastics.

The New South Wales state health department lists 1,4-butanediol as a possible replacement for gamma hydroxy butyrate, which is known to cause unconsciousness, seizures, drowsiness, coma and death.

Peter Mahon, a spokesperson for Moose Enterprises, said the company was still investigating how the chemical came to be included in the toys, which are made at a factory in Shenzhen in China's Guangdong province.

He told The Associated Press the "ingredients were switched at the point of manufacture without Moose's knowledge," but declined to give the name of the factory, saying it was "not appropriate" at this time.

"Really, the main thing we're doing is concentrating our efforts on making people aware that children shouldn't be playing with these products and getting them back," Mahon said in a telephone interview. *AP*

Standoff in Burma appears to soften

BANGKOK, THAILAND—IN A surprising break from years of deadlock in Burma (also known as Myanmar), the prodemocracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said she was ready to "cooperate" with the government, and the ruling junta said on state television that she would be allowed to meet with the leadership of her political party, something that has not happened in at least three years.

"In the interest of the nation, I stand ready to cooperate with the government in order to make this process of dialogue a success," Aung San Suu Kyi said in a statement read in Singapore by the UN special envoy, Ibrahim Gambari. He had just concluded a six-day mission to the country.

The junta also said Thursday that its liaison, Aung Kyi, would meet with Aung San Suu Kyi on Friday, their second meeting since his appointment in October. As late as Tuesday, a spokesperson for the junta said she must abandon her support for sanctions against Burma before more talks could take place.

The moves appeared to represent a small but possibly significant step toward reconciliation between the sides. *NYT*

WORLDBRIEFS

Palestinians easing demands

TEL AVIV, Israel—Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki softened demands for detailed statements on major issues before this month's US-sponsored peace conference, agreeing with Israel that real negotiations will begin after the gathering. Speaking in Tel Aviv late Thursday, Malki said the framework of the pre-conference paper would come from previous peace initiatives. "The second component of the document is the core issues," he said, "and here of course we have to find exactly what are these core issues, at least if we can mention them by name," far less than principles for solving the thorny problems like dividing Jerusalem, setting borders and resettling Palestinian refugees.

AP

Senate confirms new US attorney general

MUKASEY REUTERS

WASHINGTON—The US Senate confirmed Michael Mukasey as the country's new attorney general, despite criticism of his refusal to say whether an interrogation method called "waterboarding" was legal. Mukasey was confirmed late Thursday on a 53 to 40 vote in the Democrat-controlled Senate—the lowest level of congressional support for any US attorney general since 1952, according to the Washington Post. President George W. Bush's pick for the country's top law enforcement officer had appeared to be in jeopardy until this week because Mukasey had declined to declare that waterboarding was torture and therefore illegal. Waterboarding, which critics say amounts to simulated drowning and torture, has been reported as having been adapted for use by US interrogators after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks to wrest information from "war on terror" suspects.

AFP

US military frees 9 Iranians in Iraq

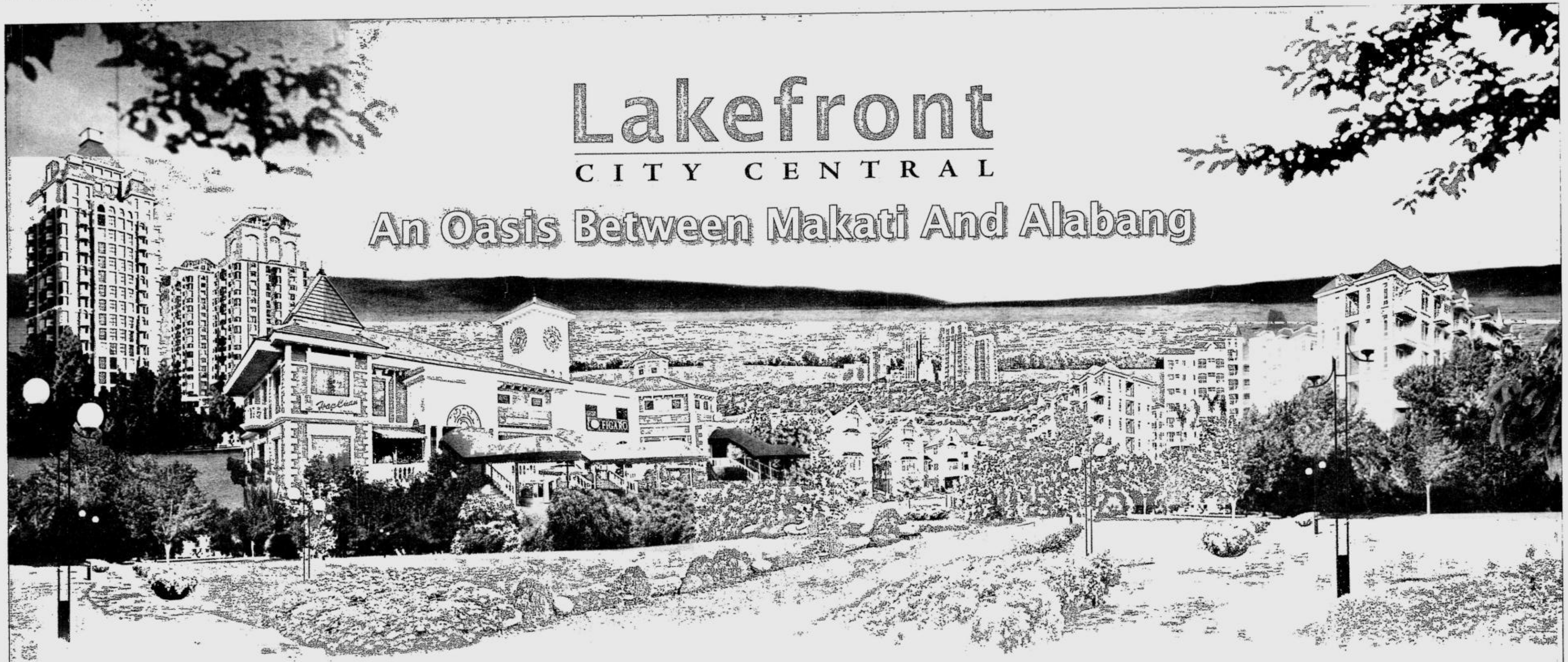
BAGHDAD—Nine Iranians held in Iraq on suspicion of aiding insurgents were freed by the US military in Baghdad on Friday and handed over to the Iraqi authorities, a US military spokesperson said. Iranian diplomatic sources said Iranian Ambassador Hassan Kazemi Qomi had gone early morning to the office of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki where the nine were handed over.

AFP

Lakefront

CITY CENTRAL

An Oasis Between Makati And Alabang



The new Metropolitan hub with a stunning panorama of the majestic Laguna de Bay.

Lakefront City Central is a 60-hectare prime property envisioned to be the next world class destination. Being the gateway of the Metro South, it has major access points making it as accessible as it is livable.

The transformation of vast tracts of idle land in Sucat into a community where families could live and thrive started in 1969 through the efforts of Doña Estela Marfori-Posadas.
Blessed with a grand vision and tremendous passion, she spearheaded and preserved all estates and developments left behind by her late husband Don Augusto and her parents-in-law Mayor Juan and Doña Rosario.

Lakefront City Central offers various residential enclaves from low-to-mid-rise condominiums by Crown Asia and high-end residences by Brittany. From the picturesque San Fransisco-inspired duettos and quadrilles of Victorianne to the mid-to-high rise towers of The Marfori and the low-to-mid rise buildings of Presidio which offer a spectacular 180-degree view of the Laguna de Bay. Phase 2 includes Bay Hub, a 10-hectare interactive business district which will soon cater to prestigious companies, BPOs and financial institutions.
Lifestyle centers like The Wharf will be expanded soon to provide a wider selection for entertainment. Upscale lifestyle shops on Nob Hill, a Country Club, Boutique Hotel and serviced apartments will complete the epitome of high life.

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SPORTS

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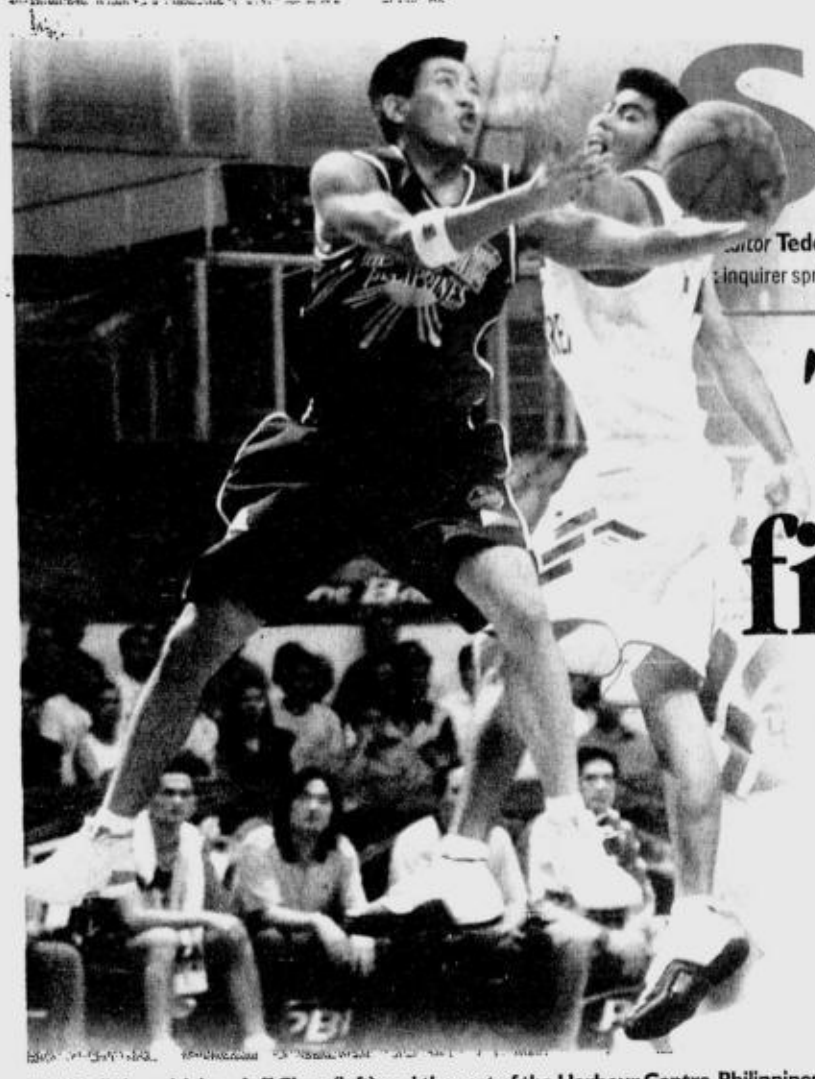
Miñoza just 6 off HSBC pace /A26



AMID all the criticism, Jeff Chan (left) and the rest of the Harbour Centre-Philippines crew, which will be boosted by three new players, fly to Singapore for a series of tuneup games. The team is preparing for the SEA Games in Thailand. RYAN LIM

Tiu, 2 others join RP five; Hapee eyes No. 4

By Jasmine W. Payo

THREE AMATEUR REINFORCEMENTS will suit up for the beleaguered Harbour-Philippine Team when it leaves for a series of tune-up games in Singapore today.

But coach Junel Baculi said Ateneo's sweet-shooting guard Chris Tiu, Harbour Centre's veteran point guard Al Vergara and Toyota Balintawak bruiser Eric Rodriguez must prove their worth to make the final cut of the revamped national squad.

"They have to fight for their slots," said Baculi. "The team will be competitive within itself."

Other reinforcements, including Hapee's Fil-Am star Gabe Norwood, are expected to join in the coming weeks to bolster the country's basketball campaign in the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand next month.

"The (players') mental approach towards the game is suspect," said Baculi. "When we go to Singapore, it will be like a boot camp and a team building."

PBA and PBL officials will convene separately early next week to discuss possible options to beef up the national crew.

Last Thursday, the Nationals wrapped up their guest stint in the PBL with two straight wins for a 5-2 record.

"A little more mental toughness and we can do it," said Baculi.

The Nationals, who also trained in Seoul, Korea last month, will go up against the Singapore

TIU/ A27

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee	3	0
Harbour Centre	3	0
RP Team	5	2
San Mig Coffee	2	2
Toyota	2	2
Mail and More	1	3
Bacchus	0	3
Pharex	0	4

GAMES TODAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Hapee vs Bacchus
4 p.m.—Toyota Balintawak vs Harbour Centre

We'll fight to death, says Castro

JASON CASTRO MINCED NO WORDS about what he and his teammates are willing to put on the line once ther 24th SEA Games in Thailand reel off next month.

"*Patay kung patay na ito pag* SEA Games *na* (We'll fight to the death in the SEA Games)," said the quicksilver Castro yesterday. "*Iba na kapag bansa na natin ang nakataya* (It's a different thing once the country is at stake)."

The cold vow came amid criticisms hurled the way of the national team, made up of players from the Philippine Basketball League, has gotten to the point that a revamp of its roster has been ordered.

"We're still peaking so you can't expect us to play perfect," the 5-foot-10 guard said in response to critics who took to task the team's 5-2 record in the PBL, where the Nationals played as a guest team.

The RP squad, bankrolled by Mikee Romero of Harbour Centre, leaves for Singapore today for a series of tuneup games and Castro said that "we're still trying to perfect our offense and the coaching staff is doing their best to plug our defensive flaws."

And on the looming revamp, Castro said: "In some aspects of the game we're doing okay. There's no problem with me if new players will be inserted in the team."

Sulaiman tells Pacman: It's not just about money

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WORLD BOXING COUNCIL PRESIdent Jose Sulaiman yesterday hit at Manny Pacquiao's preoccupation with big-money fights, saying that the Filipino ring icon go and seize the glory that now beckons him.

The 75-year-old Sulaiman said that people inside the powerhouse Team Pacquiao may have blinded the boxer to the fact that the time is very much ripe for him to chase after legitimate titles and place in history ownership of such belts provide.

"It is very wrong for a fighter to fight only for money," Sulaiman, who is here for the WBC congress, told reporters during a Scoop session at the Manila Hotel. "Winning a championship will be their crowning glory."

Sulaiman will preside over the 45th WBC Convention which starts Sunday at the Manila Hotel.

Pacquiao currently owns the international version of the WBC super featherweight title, a title reserved for boxers out of the Top 10 of their weight class.

His last belt was the International Boxing Federation super bantamweight title which he relinquished when he moved to the featherweight ranks in 2004.

Pacquiao, who didn't answer calls yesterday, is in the midst of deciding who to face for his next megabuck match.

Malibiran, Lim forge badminton title clash

PATRICIA MALIBIRAN OF MIRIAM COLLEGE and Cassandra Lim of Poveda won their semifinal matches and arranged a title clash in the girls' 12-under division of the 5th Toby's Youth Badminton championship this weekend at the Atrium of SM Megamall.

Malibiran posted five straight wins in the upper half of the draw while Lim equaled that feat in the lower bracket to set up the duel.

In the boys' 12-under action, Elijah Boac of Morning Star Montessori forged a title showdown with Carlo Remo of La Salle Green Hills.

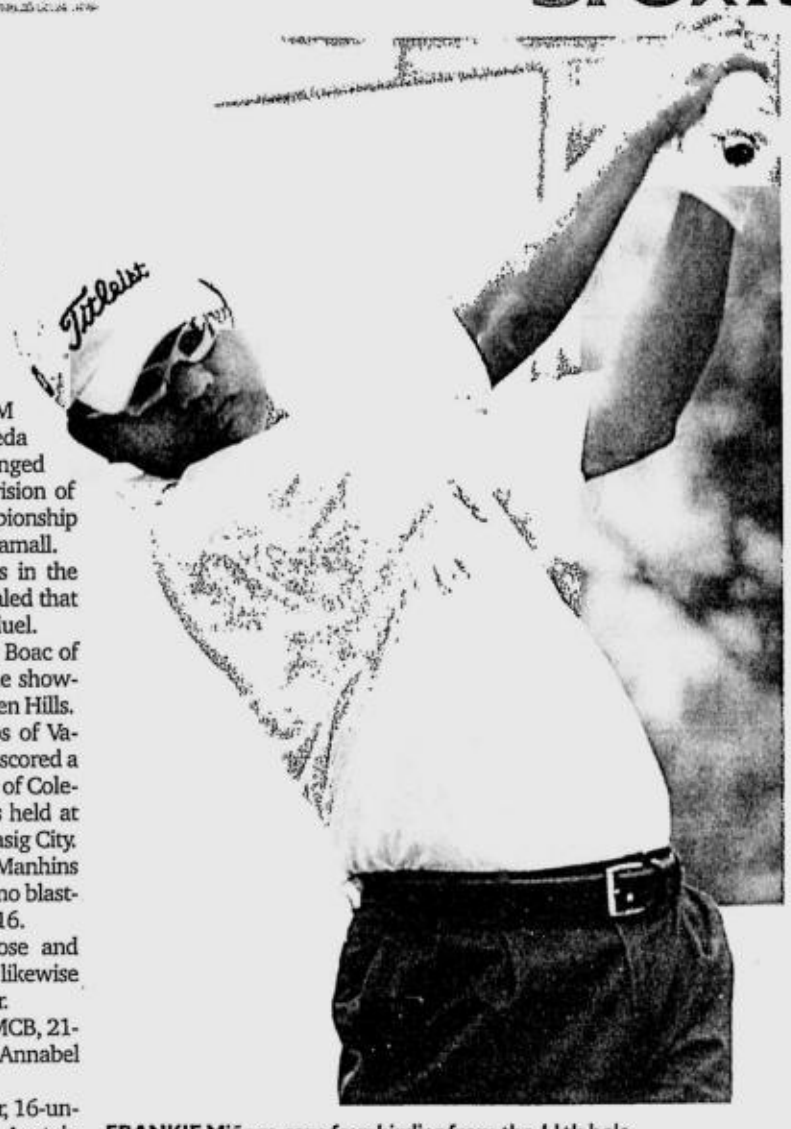
Malibiran outclassed Aimee Medios of Valencia Center, 22-20, 21-15, while Lim scored a 21-12, 21-17 win over Janelle de Vera of Colegio Monterei de Pila in the semifinals held at the West Drive Badminton Center in Pasig City.

Boac whipped Paul Pantig of Manhins Learning Center, 21-3, 21-9, while Remo blasted Anton Cayanan of Flick, 21-12, 21-16.

Marina Caculitan of Paref-Woodrose and Alyssa Leonardo of IUF Academy likewise gained finals slots in the girls' 10-under.

Caculitan beat Paola Bernardo of SMCB, 21-14, 21-1, while Leonardo humbled Annabel Sumabat of WWGBA, 21-15, 21-1.

Also to be disputed are the 14-under, 16-under and 18-under singles. *Romina S. Austria*



FRANKIE Miñoza cans four birdies from the 11th hole.

Miñoza just 6 off HSBC pace

Hot Mickelson closes in on Stadler

SHANGHAI—FRANKIE MIÑOZA RIDDLED the back nine with four birdies to salvage a two-under-par 70 and stay in touch with the leaders halfway through the HSBC Champions tournament on Friday.

Counting his opening 69, the Filipino star lay at 139, six shots off pacesetter Kevin Stadler, who fired a 69, and world No. 2 Phil Mickelson, who waxed hot with a 66.

The birdie binge at the back cushioned a bogey start and back-to-back dropped shots from the ninth hole for Miñoza, winner of the ABC Championship in the Japan Tour recently.

The 47-year-old birdied the fourth, 11th, 14th, 15th and 18th holes at the Sheshan International Golf Club. He had nines of 37-33.

Miñoza, ranked 21st in the UBS Asian Tour Order of Merit with earnings of $165,622, shared seventh to 12th places with first round co-leader Niclas Fasth of Sweden (75), South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen (70), England's Steve Webster (70) and Paul Casey (71) and South Korea's Yang Yong-eun (68).

Two other Filipinos—Juvic Pagunsan and Artemio Murakami—had contrasting fortunes.

Pagunsan also made the cut despite a 78 and a 149 total while Murakami, hobbled by an opening 80, bowed out with a 75-155.

Mickelson's putter was white-hot as the American fired four birdies on the last five holes to finish the day at 10-under, in outright second place behind his lesser-known countryman, who played consistently all day for a 69.

Englishman Ross Fisher, who shot a 68, and Scot Simon Yates, who matched Mickelson for the day's best round of 66, shared third place at eight-under, three behind Stadler.

Fijian star Vijay Singh and South African Andrew McLardy were tied for fifth at 7 under.

Among the other big names in contention, reigning US Open champion Angel Cabrera of Argentina and British Open winner Padraig Harrington of Ireland, were in a group at four-under after both shooting even-par rounds.

The $5-million HSBC Champions tournament is Asia's richest golf event and has attracted 10 of the world's top 20 ranked players. It is co-sanctioned by the European, Asian, Australasian and South African tours. *With reports from AFP and Asian Tour News*

Que paces Asean tourney by a stroke

QUE: A 68 after a 65 and a 66.

SINGAPORE—FILIPINO ANGELO QUE fired a four-under-par 68 Friday to lead Malaysian Danny Chia by one shot going into the final round of the Laguna National Asean Championship.

Que moved to an impressive 17-under-par 199 at the Classic Course of Laguna National Golf and Country Club despite dropping his first shot of the tournament.

"I played the front nine really well at five under but then had my first bogey in 49 holes on the 13th," said Que, winner of the Asian Tour's Carlsberg Vietnam Masters crown in 2004.

"I missed a few putts after that as well," added Que who also had a 65 and a 66 in the first two rounds.

Chia matched Que's 68 to be one shot off the pace at 200 with another Filipino, Felix Casas, two shots farther adrift following a similar 68 for a 202 total.

Singapore's Quincy Quek, who turned in a brilliant 64 in the second round, stood in fourth spot on 203 after a 69 Friday.

The 20-year-old amateur, grouped with Que and Chia in the final pairing, held his own to record a bogey-free round. He birdied the ninth, 12th and 15th, all par fives.

The Laguna National ASEAN Championship is the third leg of the newly launched Asean Golf Tour for up-and-coming golfers in Southeast Asia.

Another Filipino, Mars Pucay, was seven shots down at 206 after rallying with a seven-under 65.

Leading third round scores:

199—Angelo Que (RP) 65-66-68; 200—Danny Chia (Mas) 64-68-68; 202—Felix Casas (RP) 68-66-68; 203—Quincy Quek (Sin) (a) 70-64-69; 204—Mardan Mamat (Sin) 67-71-66; 205—Mohd Shaaban Hussein (Mas) 67-72-66; 206—Mars Pucay (RP) 68-73-65; 208—Khor Kheng Hwai (Mas) 71-66-71; Nakul Vichitryuthasatr (Tha) 67-71-70, S. Sivachandran (Mas) 70-69-69

SPORTSWATCH

Four candidates eye football presidency

By Cedelf P. Yupas, *Inquirer Visayas*

COJUANGCO

TWO FORMER NAtional players and a former congressman are among the nominees for the top post of the Philippine Football Federation, which holds its quadrennial elections on Nov. 24 at the Bayview Park Hotel in Manila.

Mariano "Nonong" Araneta Jr., who saw action for the Philippine Team in the late '70s until the mid '80s, and ex-Mr. Football awardee Mari Martinez are eyeing the PFF presidency, along with former Negros Occidental Rep. Charlie Cojuangco and PFF publicist Ed Formoso.

Cojuangco, president of the Negros Occidental Football Association, and Araneta, the Iloilo football head, are also members of the PFF board of governors.

PFF secretary general Pablito Araneta said his brother, Mariano, a former PFF executive vice president and director of the Fifa Goal Program in the Philippines, was nominated by 11 provincial FAs as the nominations deadline expired yesterday.

The presidents of the 32 FAs under the PFF will decide who will succeed Johnny Romualdez, also the vice president of the Asean Football Federation.

Execs chess 7th leg unfolds

THE SEVENTH LEG OF THE NCFP EXECutives and Professional Chess Challenge gets under way today at the Greenhouse Grill on Matalino Street, Quezon City.

The tournament, sponsored by Cebu sports patron and former Philippine Chess Federation president Matias "Bombi" Aznar, starts at 10:30 a.m., according to NCFP executive director Sammy Estimo.

Doing the ceremonial moves are NCFP chair and Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor and QC RTC Judge Hilario Laqui.

UGBA 9-stag nat'l elims on

THE NATIONAL ELIMINATIONS OF THE UGBA Heritage Cup National 9-Stag Derby 2007 gets going today at the San Juan Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as main backer.

United Gamecock Breeders Association president Rene Diaz said that breeders affiliated with Ugba may also join the eliminations at SJC on Nov. 17, 24 and 26.

About P10 million awaits the winners.

'Bakbakan' semifinals today

OVER 100 FIGHTS HAVE BEEN LINED UP in today's semifinal round of the NFGB National Bakbakan 10-Stag Derby at the Makati Coliseum.

Seeing action are qualifiers from the Pasig Square Garden (Nov. 3) and the Makati Coliseum (Nov. 5, 7 and 8).

NFGB president Ricoy Palmares Jr. said a participant must earn a total of four points to enter the championship round.

COMMENTARY

RP boxing's glimmer man

By Percy D. Della

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—NONITO DONAIRE JR., TRUE to his moniker, came to our attention in a glimmer.

The Filipino Flash became a dual boxing world champion with our eyes almost wide shut.

Now that he has completely emerged into our consciousness, the current IBF and IBO flyweight king will stay there for a long while. There are a million reasons why.

A raging bull in the ring, Nonito Jr. is a lamb off the canvas and seems as though he would never hurt a fly.

He reminds fans of the original Flash—the late Gabriel Elorde.

Elorde hit paydirt all right, but not in the millions during his long reign as world junior lightweight champ; yet "Bay" remains arguably the greatest Pinoy pug of all time.

He was adored in life and is revered even in death.

Nonito has heard about the Hall of Famer whose humility—amid his fistic feat—the young champ tries to follow.

"I can never match Elorde's greatness," the present Flash concedes. "But his ideals will live in me. Elorde is going to box through me."

Nonito Jr. floored everyone, from the great Oscar De La Hoya down to this writer with his gentlemanly ways during the World Cup of boxing in Sacramento four months ago. I was so impressed I followed up our talk that night with phone calls and e-mails before he flew to the Philippines recently. He is training at the ALA gym in Cebu for his Dec. 1 title defense against Mexican challenger Luis Maldonado in Connecticut.

When Nonito Jr. knocked out champion Vic Darchinyan in a stunning upset for the IBF flyweight crown earlier this year, Filipino fight fans were slow to react because of his American- sounding name.

They had no idea that the United States-based boxer came to California at age 10 with his family from Gen. Santos City by way of Talibon, Bohol.

Fans of Olympic-style boxing are also pleasantly surprised to know that Nonito Jr. made it to the finals of the US Olympic trials in 2001, only to lose a controversial decision to another Fil-Am, Brian Viloria.

Donaire may have doubted the outcome of that fight and momentary lost trust in the judges that night, but it was no excuse for losing his manners. And he never did.

Despite his Western upbringing, Nonito Jr. wears his Filipino heritage like a badge. He speaks English with an American accent, but can easily switch to fluent Visayan and Tagalog. "Po," the Pinoy term of respect, is a staple of his speech.

"Losing is the worst feeling," he says as he looks back to the Viloria loss. "It gave me the fortitude to fight my best and give all I got so that I'd avoid the feeling of shame."

Backed by this resolve and a family who encouraged him every day to fulfill his wish of becoming world champion, the San Leandro, California, kid figured it out.

The result is a sparse but sterling professional record of 16 wins, nine by knockouts, against a loss. Statistically, that's a win percentage of 94 percent and a KO rate of 56 percent.

The glimmer man has vaulted into our minds. He will be there for sometime. Because there are a million reasons why.

* * *

Sports note: J.B. Yango, known as the Cuyapo Kid during his heyday in the PBA and in several national teams, survived a recent razor blade attack in Barangay 5, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija. Well wishes from his California-based *kababayans* are pouring in for the termed-out provincial board member. Since there was nary a word about the incident in the major Manila dailies, I hope his former teammates and well-placed friends in the big city are aware of it. Get well J.B. and good luck from the original Cuyapo Kid.

La Salle tossers sweep Lady Tams, gain playoff

By Romina S. Austria

LA SALLE POUNCED ON THE ABSENCE OF Far Eastern University's top player to prevail, 25-15, 25-20, 26-24, yesterday and clinch at least a playoff for one of the two remaining semifinal berths in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

La Salle guest player Maureen Penetrante delivered a hit before blocking Josephine Cafranca's attack to score the last two points for the Lady Archers.

FEU's Rachel Daquis, who sprained her ankle in a four-set loss to San Sebastian College last Monday, watched from the sidelines as the Lady Tamaraws fell to their third straight loss and a 2-4 card overall.

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC	5	0
UST	5	1
Ateneo	4	2
Adamson	3	3
La Salle	3	3
FEU	2	4
Lyceum	2	5
Letran	0	6

GAMES MONDAY *(The Arena, San Juan)*
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs FEU
5 p.m.—UST vs SSC

LA SALLE'S Jacqueline Alarca (left) attacks off FEU's Josephine Cafranca. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Jacqueline Alarca topscored for the Lady Archers with 15 points, including 10 kills, while Carla Llaguno delivered 10 hits and one service point.

In the second game, University of Santo Tomas ousted Lyceum from the semifinal race with a 25-17, 22-25, 25-15, 25-18 victory.

Venus Bernal and Suzanne Roces combined for 32 kills to power the Tigresses to a second-best 5-1 card.

FEU must beat Ateneo on Monday to force a rubber match for the fifth semifinal slot against the loser of the La Salle-Adamson tussle on Tuesday.

Metro Tiong Lian caging slated

CHIANG KAI SHEK EXPECTS ROUGH SAILing despite an almost intact lineup when it opens defense of its Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball Association crown on Jan. 12 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The CKS cagers beat Xavier School last year to bag their 13th title.

Although main man Justin Chua is still with the team, coach Sunny Co expects tough opposition from all participating teams.

Also out to spoil CKS' back-to-back title bid are St. Jude, UNO High School, Hope Christian, Grace Christian and St. Stephen.

Preparations are now under way for the staging of the 33rd edition of the tournament.

Host St. Jude Catholic School will present a grand opening rites to complement what is expected to be another exciting tourney among the country's prestigious Fil-Chinese schools.

Sherwin Tiu, board member of the association, said the opening ceremony and most of the games will be aired by Solar Sports.

Sta. Lucia's Joseph Yeo, a former Xavier player, will grace the opening rites.

CKP 168, Polymasters, Jas Cellphone make MBT semis

CKP 168 BLASTED RUSTY LOPEZ, 82-60, to barge into the semifinals of the MBT Corporate Cup Wednesday at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong.

John Valderama scored 18 points while Hakim Alcantara, Roel Capati and Dexter Micutan chipped in 10 points each as CKP 168 arranged a semifinal duel with the Mighty Filter Kings.

Also advancing to the next round are Polymasters and Jas Cellphone.

The winners of today's semifinal will advance to the best-of-three finals. Game One is slated on Nov. 12.

The Polymasters tripped Nougat Candy, 78-72, while Jas Cellphone leaned on Paul Santiago to crush the PNP Shooters, 78-72.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Bulls finally triumph

Nets nip Wizards; Mavs rout Warriors

CHICAGO—THE PUSH AND THE EXTRA MOTIVATION THE STRUGgling Chicago Bulls needed came from the team that eliminated them from the playoffs last spring.

After a surprising 0-4 start, Chicago beat the Detroit Pistons, 97-93, on Thursday night, riding 19 points and 14 rebounds from Tyrus Thomas for that elusive first victory.

"It just feels a lot better. We got a quality win over one of the best teams in the league" said Chicago's Kirk Hinrich, who had 14 assists. "Now we've got to play better basketball and be more consistent."

The Bulls had to overcome a 36-point night from Rasheed Wallace—his most in a Pistons' uniform—to send Detroit to its first loss after opening with three wins.

No one could stop Wallace's assortment of shots—post-ups on the inside, 3-pointers from the perimeter—although he missed two key shots in the final minute.

"Regardless of my game, it ended in an 'L,'" Wallace said. "I'm old school so it didn't matter what I did, the team lost the game."

Luol Deng added 17 points and Ben Gordon had 16 for the Bulls.

Richard Hamilton scored 18 points for the Pistons, who eliminated the Bulls in six games in the Eastern Conference semifinals last spring.

"Hopefully getting a win against a good team like Detroit will give us some confidence," Gordon said.

GAME TODAY
(*Basketball TV*)
8:30 a.m.—Phoenix vs. New Jersey
(replay at 9 p.m.)

Hamilton drove the lane for a sweeping basket as the shot clock went off, cutting the Bulls lead to 94-93 with 1:35 to play. After the teams traded turnovers, Chicago's Joe Smith missed a jumper and the Pistons had a chance to retake the lead. But Wallace's short bank shot wouldn't stay in and the Bulls rebounded with 33 seconds to go.

Nets 87, Wizards, 85

In East Rutherford, Richard Jefferson scored 25 points, including two game-winning free throws with 24 seconds left, and the New Jersey Nets rallied past the winless Washington Wizards.

The Nets' fourth victory in five games wasn't secured until Antoine Wright forced Gilbert Arenas to his right and the Washington guard had to take an off-balance shot that was deflected by Vince Carter.

Carter had 24 points, including 12-of-14 from the line, to help New Jersey rally from a 20-point first-half deficit.

Antawn Jamison had 24 points and nine rebounds for Washington, while Caron Butler and Arenas both had 21 points.

The 0-4 start is the first for Washington since 1992-93.

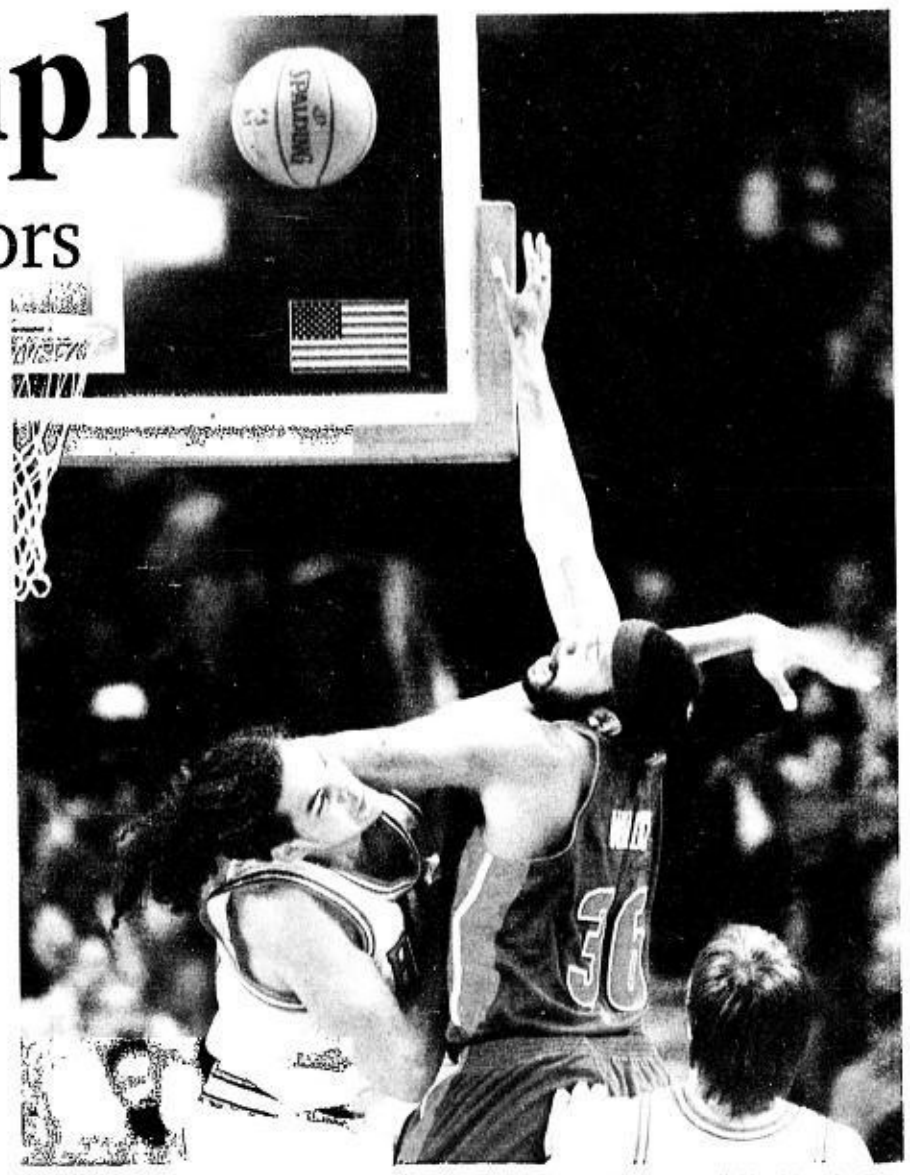
Mavericks 120, Warriors 115

Dirk Nowitzki scored 22 points to lead the Dallas Mavericks at Golden State.

Nowitzki scored eight points in the fourth quarter, Jerry Stackhouse hit a 3-pointer with 37 seconds left and the Mavericks got a bit of hollow revenge from their historic playoff defeat with a 120-115 victory over the winless Warriors.

Josh Howard had 24 points for the Mavericks, who snapped a five-game regular-season losing streak against the Warriors. They held off another sublime performance from Baron Davis, who scored 15 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter as a six-man Golden State rotation repeatedly threatened to embarrass Dallas again.

But Davis missed a potential game-tying three-pointer with 4 seconds to play—an open shot everyone in the arena probably expected him to make. *AP*



RASHEED Wallace (right) of the Detroit Pistons is fouled by Chicago Bulls' Joakim Noah on the way to the hoop at the United Center. AFP

Magsanoc, Altamirano eyed for UP job

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES has narrowed its search for a coach to two candidates two months after veteran mentor Joe Lipa got the boot.

Ronnie Magsanoc and Eric Altamirano have been interviewed by the selection committee, which aims to come up with a decision by the end of the month.

"There's no formal appointment yet; we've talked to them and we want to see who will respond positively," Hercules Callanta, dean of the College of Human Kinetics and UP's representative to the UAAP board, said yesterday.

Either way, Lipa—dismissed last September after the UP Maroons' winless campaign in the UAAP men's basketball competition—will be replaced by a former ward since both Magsanoc and Altamirano suited up for his 1986 championship squad, the only UP team to win a UAAP title.

"Both of them seem to be a good choice," said Callanta.

Magsanoc is an assistant coach of Purefoods in the PBA, while Altamirano is currently running his Coach E Basketball School.

Tiu, 2 others . . .

From page A25

national team, a Singapore-based Australian crew, an Army squad and a European group.

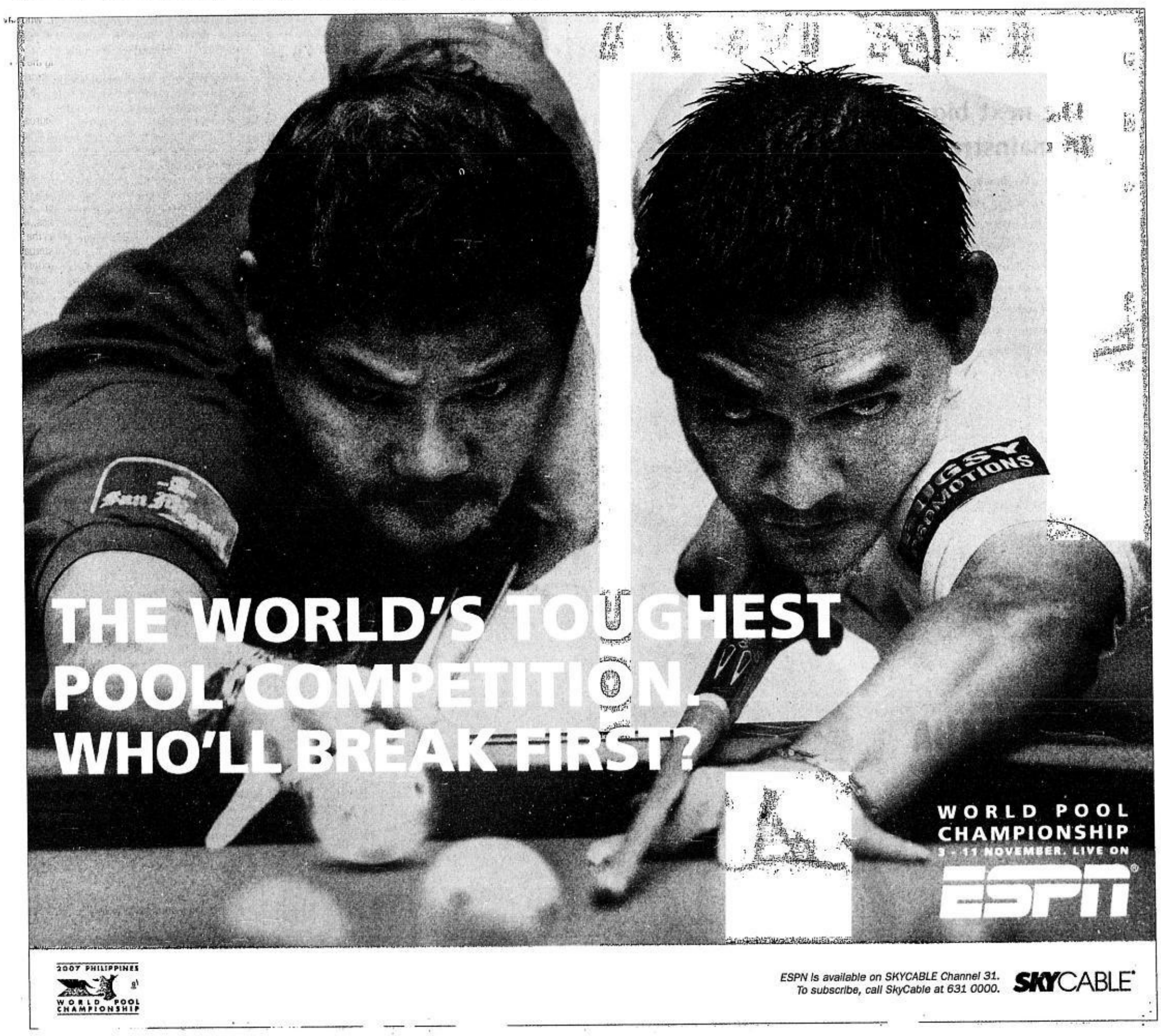
While Norwood remained on top of their wish list, the lanky 6-foot-5 guard will try to focus on leading Hapee to its fourth straight victory in the V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup today.

The Complete Protectors—who stunned the Nationals, 78-73, in their last outing—will try to keep their perfect record versus Bacchus at 2 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Harbour Centre will also try to extend its winning run to four against Toyota Balintawak at 4 p.m.

Batang Pier, meanwhile, have anchored their campaign on La Salle standouts TY Tang and Rico Maierhofer and Fil-Am Solomon Mercado.

"Playing against Toyota will determine how far we would go in this tournament; Toyota is a very tough team," said Harbour coach Jorge Gallent.



SPORTS

NBC: Pagadian faces Zamboanga Latinos

PAGADIAN CITY—NATIONAL Basketball Conference's pre-season kicks off today with the Pagadian Explorers of Rene "Dodong" Pamaran and Mayor Sammy Co facing possible expansion team Zamboanga Latinos here.

The Explorers have recruited former PBL Alwin Espiritu, ex-De La Salle and Cagayan Rapids cager Mark Benitez, FEU's Jay Sierra and Cyril Santiago, and Arellano University's Orly Daroya.

Pagadian will be handled by Alvin Grey.

The Latinos will be composed of Alvin John Munio, Rolando Junie Navarri Jr., Jose Carlo Araojo, Christopher Concepcion, Michaelo Mendoza, Emrey Ramirez, Tan Tan Pareno, Ether Chua, Darwin Cordero, Joemie Alvarez, Bong Botin and Rey Dumapig.

Reynold Langyon is team manager and Edny Morones coach.

Sharapova in semis

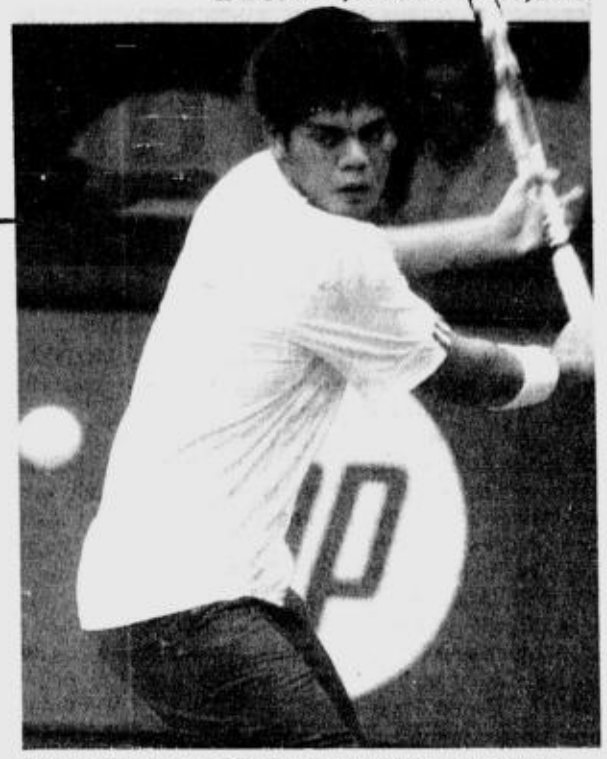
MADRID, SPAIN—RUSSIANS Maria Sharapova and Anna Chakvetadze needed three-set victories to reach the semifinals at the Sony Ericsson Championships on Thursday.

Sharapova's 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 win over countrywoman Svetlana Kuznetsova also advanced unbeaten Ana Ivanovic.

Sharapova and Ivanovic will meet on Friday. The winner of the Red Group match will play Chakvetadze in the semifinals on Saturday, while the loser will face defending champion Justine Henin, who topped Yellow Group undefeated by crushing Wimbledon finalist Marion Bartoli, 6-0, 6-0—the first victory to love in the WTA season-ending championship's 35-year history.

Bartoli had replaced Australian Open champion Serena Williams, who withdrew with a left knee injury she aggravated in her brief opening match on Wednesday.

Chakvetadze, a first-time qualifier in the elite eight-women event, hung on to beat third-ranked Jelena Jankovic, 6-4, 0-6, 6-3. *AP*



IT'S GOING to be a close battle for the PCA Open title, says the lanky PJ Tierro. RYAN LIM

Arcilla, Tierro to duel for title

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DEFENDING CHAMPION JOHNNY ARCILLA and fellow national player PJ Tierro thwarted inexperienced rivals and forged a showdown for the men's singles crown of the Philippine Columbian Association Open tennis championship yesterday at the PCA shell courts.

Reaping the benefits of international stints with the RP David Cup team that worked its way from Group 3 to Group 1, Arcilla downed Yannick Guba, 6-3, 6-3, while Tierro repulsed Rolando Ruel Jr., 6-4, 6-4, in the semifinals.

They will dispute the men's title of the country's oldest tennis event tomorrow with the 27-year-old Arcilla holding a 5-3 edge over the 21-year-old Tierro.

"It's going to be a close call because we are teammates," said Tierro. "So whoever wants to win the most will win it."

Arcilla started cold, giving away the first two points to Guba in the opening set before putting things in order by engaging him in long rallies.

"I needed to get my groove first, so I thought of just getting the ball back," said Arcilla in Filipino. The two-time champion won the title at Ruel's expense last year.

Arcilla's patience paid off as he took a 5-3 lead that practically broke Guba's resolve.

Almost the same thing happened later when Tierro—after handily taking the first set—struggled in the second set against a hard-fighting Ruel.

"I didn't relax, but I was rushing things," said Tierro, who trailed 1-4 in the second set mostly on unforced errors.

RP Youth starts training in two weeks

By Jasmine W. Payo

LEARNING ITS LESSONS FROM THE men's national team debacle, the BAP-Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas will kick off training for the Philippine youth team in two weeks.

"We're developing young talents," said BAP-SBP executive director Patrick Gregorio.

National youth coach Franz Pumaren will form a pool of 25 to 30 players aged 16 to 18 years old that will include a sprinkling of foreign cagers with Filipino roots.

Among the leading aspirants are NCAA juniors Most Valuable Player Ryan Buenafe of San Sebastian, San Beda's Nico Salva and Perpetual Help's Franz Dysam.

"We're also eyeing a 15-year-old, 6-foot-5 Fil-Canadian-Italian and another aspirant from Los Angeles," said Pumaren.

Gregorio said BAP-SBP has also sealed a multi-million sponsorship deal that will bankroll the RP Youth for three years.

"We will take care of this group," said Gregorio.

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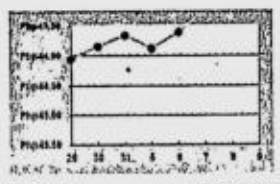
September exports jump 4.7% to $4.37B

Electronics down 0.2%, but coco oil up 67.2%

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER NOVEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱42.795 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 8, 2007

By Michelle V. Remo

EXPORTS GREW 4.7 PERCENT TO $4.37 BILLION IN September from a year ago, rebounding from a 4-percent contraction recorded the previous month, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

The export performance in September was not led by electronics, the country's major export product, as foreign demand for these actually dropped during the month, the NSO said.

Electronics still accounted for the biggest share of the country's exports at 60.7 percent, or $2.656 billion, of the total export earnings for September. This, however, represented a 0.2-percent drop from the $2.66 billion recorded in the same months last year.

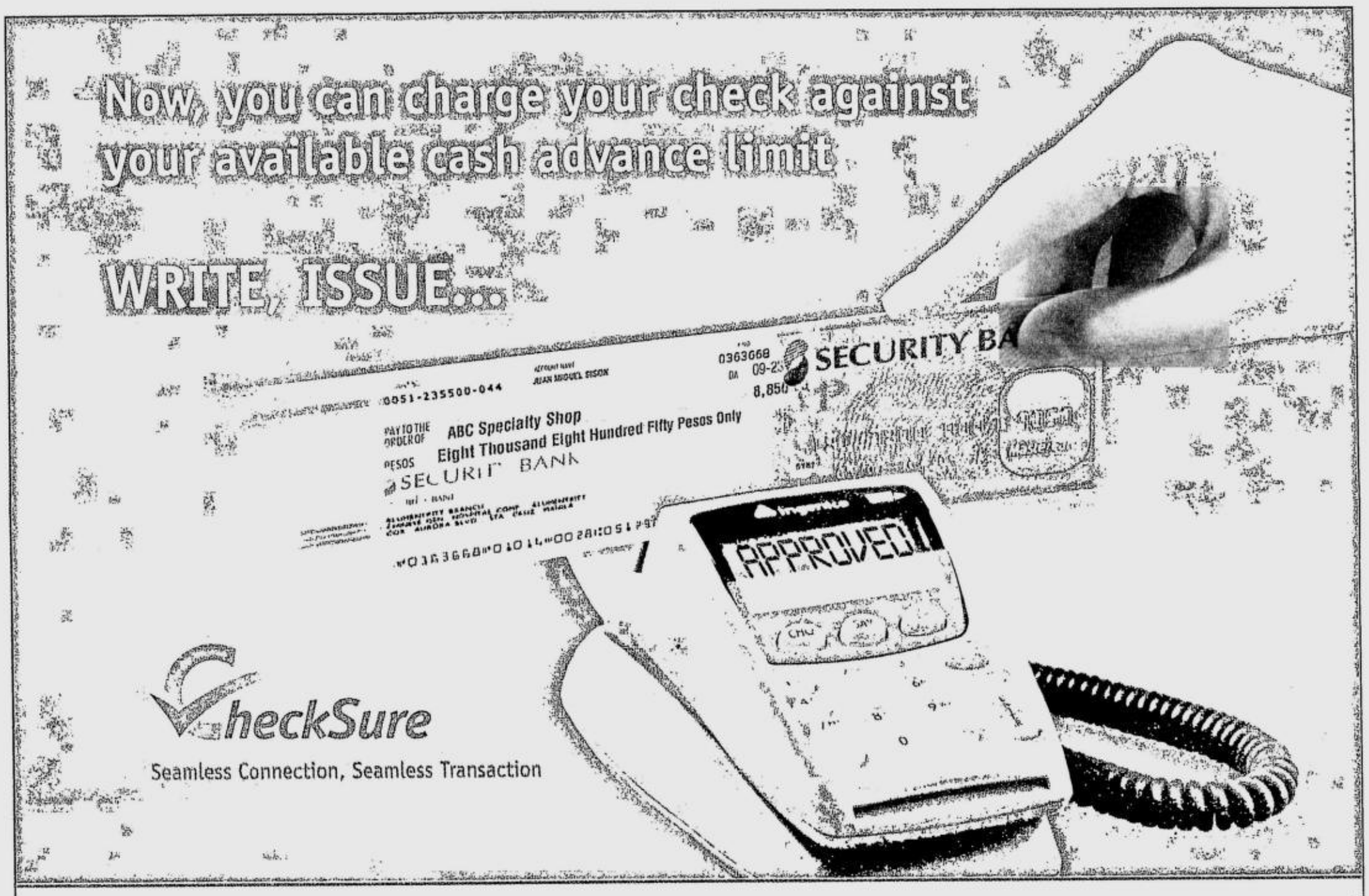
Coconut oil was the biggest gainer with exports growing 67.2 percent to $62.75 million. Coconut oil accounted for about 14 percent of total exports for the month.

The September figures brought the country's exports for the first nine months of the year to $37.2 billion, up 4.9 percent from the $35.48 billion posted in the same period last year.

Analysts said the country was expected to post growth in exports for the full year, but at a slower pace than the government's official target of 11 percent.

The exports growth target set for the year was based on the assumption that global demand for consumer electronics—such as personal computers and cellular phones—would

SEPTEMBER/B3



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Megaworld profit jumped 52% to ₱2.29B in 1st 9 months

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

TOWNSHIP DEVELOPER Megaworld Corp. posted a 52-percent jump in net income to P2.29 billion for the first nine months of 2007 from P1.51 billion in the same period last year.

The lion's share in revenues came from residential condominiums and office space catering to business process outsourcing firms.

In its disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Megaworld reported that total revenues rose 53 percent to P10.07 billion during the nine-month period from P6.57 billion in the same period in 2006.

Real estate sales from various residential projects were the main growth driver, up 68 percent to P7.25 billion as of end-September this year from P4.32 billion a year ago.

Reservation sales for the first nine months reached P14.25 billion, surpassing the full-year performance of P10.3 billion in 2006. Megaworld targets to hit P19 billion in reservation sales this year, an increase of 84 percent from the P10.3 billion recorded in 2006.

Its reservation sales target has been revised twice this year from an initial P15 billion to P17 billion.

"This series of upgrades is proof that the Philippine property market remains robust and resilient despite the subprime woes in the US," said Megaworld chair and president Andrew Tan.

Megaworld also grew its rental income by 30 percent to P664 million from P509 million last year, driven mainly by the company's retail and BPO-oriented office projects. Megaworld is a leader in BPO office development with up to a million square meters of office projects in the pipeline.

To maintain its lead in this market, the company is embarking on an aggressive program to complete 500,000 square meters of office space over the next five years. The projects are situated mainly in three BPO-and-information technology centers in Metro Manila: Eastwood City in Quezon City, McKinley Hill in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, and Newport City at the Villamor air base in Pasay City.

Megaworld also plans to transform the old Iloilo airport, which it acquired recently for P1.2 billion, into a first-ever BPO hub in the Western Visayas region, offering BPO investors an alternative site for expansion and growth.

"Megaworld is aligned with the government and the BPO industry's drive to capture 10 percent of the global offshoring and outsourcing market by 2010, which is projected to generate $13 billion in revenues and create one million jobs," Tan said.

As of end September, Megaworld's cash position stood at P19 billion. The company has kept itself in a net cash position and maintained its debt at P7 billion.

SM Prime opens ₱1-B mall in Taytay

SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC., the mall developer of tycoon Henry Sy, yesterday opened its 29th mall in Taytay, Rizal, which cost the company roughly P1 billion to build.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), SM Prime said the new mall has a gross floor area of 91,920 square meters and stands on a 38,525-sq.m. lot.

SM City Taytay has a leasable area of 42,459 sq.m. and has as its main tenants SM Department Store, SM Hypermarket, a food court, and three cinemas.

The SM Hypermarket occupies 8,000 sq.m. of the mall's total gross floor area and offers a mix of food and non-food items such as apparel and appliances. It will also house a wet market, a bakeshop and a chicken rotisserie.

The SM Department Store, on the other hand, is located at the ground and second floors of the mall and has a total area of 16,803 sq.m., with a gross selling area of 11,197 sq.m.

The three cinemas have a combined seating capacity of 1,250.

"Taytay is recognized as the garments capital of the Philippines. It has a large residential community and it houses the biggest school campus of one of the country's leading colleges. It is easily accessible from various points of Metro Manila, through major thoroughfares such as Ortigas Avenue Extension and Sumulong Highway, which makes it an ideal location for an SM City in the province of Rizal," SM Prime president Hans Sy said.

Before the year ends, SM Prime is set to open SM Supercenter Muntinlupa, a community mall similar to SM Supercenter Pasig, which has SM Hypermarket as its anchor tenant.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Alliance Global posts 651% increase in net profit to ₱3.5B

ALLIANCE GLOBAL GROUP Inc. (AGI), the holding firm of taipan Andrew Tan, said its consolidated net income from January to September surged 651 percent to P3.5 billion from P465.7 million in the same period a year ago on record revenues.

Net income excluding minority interest rose to P2.1 billion from P442.3 million, up 376 percent year on year, the company said in a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

AGI said it posted a record P19.4 billion in consolidated revenues from January to September this year, up 222 percent from P6 billion in the same period in 2006.

AGI is one of the biggest capitalized conglomerates in the country with a cash hoard of P29.2 billion, which will be used to position the company for continuous growth in all of its major business segments.

Total debt stood at P7.9 billion as of end-September.

"Our strong financial standing allows us to maintain a leadership position in all of our major business lines, namely food and beverage, property development and quick-service restaurants. At the same time, it gives us maximum flexibility to invest in high-growth businesses to ensure sustained growth for the company," said AGI president Kingson Sian.

After AGI's conversion into a holding company early this year, its three core businesses have each registered financial gains.

Alliance Global's food and beverage division, led by its 100-percent owned liquor company Emperador Distillers Inc. (EDI), posted a net income of P956.6 million as of end-September, 93-percent higher than its full-year net income of P495.7 million in 2006.

EDI produces the world's largest-selling brandy, Emperador, and the up-and-coming Generoso Brandy.

"We expect EDI to continue its impressive growth as it heads into the fourth quarter, traditionally the strongest quarter of the year," Sian said.

In the real estate investment and development division, property giant Megaworld Corp. reported its nine-month net income soared 52 percent to P2.29 billion from P1.51 billion.

AGI's quick service restaurant division, Golden Arches Development Corp. (GADC), raised its third-quarter net income to P211 million, up 303 percent year on year. This was 80-percent higher than the company's full-year net income of P117 million in 2006.

GADC is the master franchise holder of US fast-food chain McDonald's in the country.

GADC opened 12 new stores in the first nine months of 2007 and ended with a total of 265 stores.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

'No child should die of diabetes'

World Diabetes Day 2007 focuses on children and adolescents

There are more than 240 million people in the world today living with diabetes. Of this number around 70,000 children under the age of 15 develop Type 1 diabetes each year or almost 200 children a day. Type 1 diabetes is a condition caused by a lack of the pancreatic hormone insulin that helps glucose enter the body's cells. Glucose is the main source of energy of the body's cells. Of the estimated 440,000 cases of type 1 diabetes in children worldwide, more than a quarter live in South-East Asia.

Type 2 diabetes, in which the body cannot respond normally to the available insulin that is made, was once seen as a disease of adults. Over a 20-year period, type 2 diabetes has doubled in children in Japan, so that it is now more common than type 1. In native and aboriginal children in North America and Australia, the prevalence rate of type 2 diabetes ranges from 1.3 to 5.3%.

To focus on this alarming trend, the United Nations has designated the theme for World Diabetes Day on November 14, 2007 as Diabetes in Children and Adolescents. It aims to establish firmly the message that "No child should die of diabetes."

Diabetes is a common chronic disease that can strike children at any age, including pre-school children and even toddlers. Yet diabetes in children is often diagnosed late, when the child has diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), or it is misdiagnosed completely. In many parts of the world, insulin, the main life-saving medication that children with diabetes need to survive, is not available (or is available but remains inaccessible for reasons of economy, geography or constraints on supply). As a consequence, many children die of diabetes, particularly in low and middle-income countries. Those closest to the child family, school staff, family doctor may not be aware of the ominous signs, increased urination, extreme thirst, unexplained weight loss, extreme tiredness or lack of energy, constant hunger, slow-healingwounds, recurrent infections and blurred vision.

Diabetes has a unique impact on children and their families. The daily life of children is disrupted by the need to monitor blood glucose levels, take medication, and balance the effect of activity and food. Diabetes can interfere with the normal developmental tasks of childhood and adolescence, which include succeeding in school and transitioning to adulthood.

But diabetes can be prevented or its onset delayed. Early diagnosis and early education are crucial to reducing complications and saving lives. The health care community, educators, parents and guardians must join forces to help children living with diabetes, prevent the condition in those at risk, and avoid unnecessary death and disability. This year's campaign aims to raise awareness and do just that.

Philippine Diabetes Association supports World Diabetes Day.

For more information, visit www.worlddiabetesday.org.

CURRENCIES

November 9, 2007

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.681524	1.000000	43.3730
Japan	Yen	0.006051	0.008879	0.3851
United Kingdom	Pound	1.436652	2.108000	91.4303
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.087738	0.128738	5.5838
Switzerland	Franc	0.604188	0.886525	38.4512
Canada	Dollar	0.729761	1.070778	46.4429
Singapore	Dollar	0.473708	0.695072	30.1474
Australia	Dollar	0.630457	0.925069	40.1230
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.809051	2.654421	115.1302
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.182152	0.267272	11.5924
Brunei	Dollar	0.472068	0.692665	30.0430
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000075	0.000110	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.021670	0.031797	1.3791
UAE	Dirham	0.185610	0.272346	11.8125
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.467300	63.6412
Korea	Won	0.000752	0.001103	0.0478
China	Yuan**	0.091841	0.134758	5.8449
Denmark	Kroner	0.134200	0.196912	8.5407
India	Rupee	0.017417	0.025556	1.1084
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.204724	0.300391	13.0289
New Zealand	Dollar	0.528600	0.775615	33.6407
Sweden	Kroner	0.108154	0.158695	6.8831
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021100	0.030960	1.3428

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 8, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 8, 2007

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PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS LABORATORY EQUIPMENT FOR BFAD SATELLITE LABORATORY – DAVAO AND CEBU
IAEB No. 2007-12-6 (32) & 2007-12-7 (34)

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the General Appropriations Act of CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of Twenty Million Seventy Three Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Four & 96/100 Philippine Peso (PhP20,073,234.96) for Satellite Laboratory Davao and Ten Million Two Hundred Thirty One Thousand Nine Hundred Seven Philippine Pesos (PhP 10,231,907.00) for Satellite Laboratory Cebu being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the aforesaid Goods. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The DOH now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for procurement of above-mentioned packages. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding.
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the COBAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Philippine Pesos (PhP7,500.00) for the Satellite Laboratory Davao and Three Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP3,000.00) for the Satellite Laboratory Cebu. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
7. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the following dates and time at the address given below:

Particular	Date	Time
Procurement of Various Laboratory Equipment for BFAD Satellite Laboratory Davao	November 23, 2007	10:00 a.m.
Procurement of Various Laboratory Equipment for BFAD Satellite Laboratory Cebu	November 23, 2007	1:30 p.m.

8. The Submission and Opening of Bids shall be on the following dates and time at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend Bids and eligibility requirements:

Particular	Date	Time
Procurement of Various Laboratory Equipment for BFAD Satellite Laboratory Davao	December 6, 2007	10:00 a.m.
Procurement of Various Laboratory Equipment for BFAD Satellite Laboratory Davao	December 7, 2007	10:00 a.m.

9. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount in Pesos. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % Approved Budget for the Contract for the item/s for which Bid is Submitted
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)

10. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Building 6
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz,
Manila

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI - Nov. 10 & 11, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
National Historical Institute
T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Historical Institute (NHI) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Project No. 1

DESCRIPTION	Provision of Security Services	
LOCATIONS AND NUMBERS OF SECURITY	Central Office	10
	Quezon Memorial Shrine	3
	Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine	2
	Rizal Shrine Fort Santiago	3
	Rizal Shrine Calamba	3
	Rizal Shrine Dapitan	6
	Juan Luna Shrine	1
	Baldomero Shrine	1
	Vinzons Historical Landmark	1
APPROVED BUDGET	P5,500,000.00	
CONTRACT DURATION	January 16, 2008 - January 15, 2009	
SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS	December 14, 2007	

Bidding documents shall be issued upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Three Thousand Pesos* (Php 3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

Project No. 2

DESCRIPTION	Provision of Janitorial Services	
LOCATIONS AND NUMBERS OF SECURITY	Central Office	13
	Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine	3
	Quezon Memorial Shrine	2
	Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine	2
	Rizal Shrine Fort Santiago	1
	Rizal Shrine Calamba	1
	Mabini Shrine Tanauan	1
	Leon Apacible Historical Landmark	1
	Malvar Historical landmark	2
	M. Agoncillo Hist'l Landmark	2
	R. Magsaysay Ancestral House	1
	Brillantes Ancestral House	1
APPROVED BUDGET	P3,700,000.00	
CONTRACT DURATION	January 16, 2008 to January 15, 2009	
SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS	December 14, 2007	

Bidding documents shall be issued upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Three Thousand Pesos* (Php 3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

Interested parties are advised to submit Letter of Intent and photocopy of their Certificate of Registration of Business Name (with original for authentication) from **November 20-22, 2007.**

Eligibility Statement Forms shall be issued from **November 20-22, 2007.** Duly Accomplished Eligibility Statements shall be placed in a sealed envelope and shall be submitted to the Chairman, NHI-BAC, National Historical Institute, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila, **November 23-27, 2007.**

Bid documents will be made available only to eligible bidders for issuance upon payment of fee, at the BAC Secretariat, Manila upon presentation of the original Certificate of Eligibility.

Bid proposals shall be submitted in two (2) sealed brown envelopes with the name of the project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters, addressed to the Chairman of the NHI Bids and Awards Committee, T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila. The "First Envelope" shall contain the accomplished Technical Statements. The "Second Envelope" shall contain the financial proposal.

All particulars relative to Eligibity, Bid bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids/eligibility statements; to declare a failure of bidding if there is, among others, reason to suspect an evident collusion among bidders resulting in no competition; to waive any required formality in the bids received; and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO V. SAPITAN
BAC Chairman

(PDI—Nov. 7 & 10, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (PICC)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

I - ONE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR THE MONTHLY OPERATION & MAINTENANCE SERVICE OF PICC' AUDIO EQUIPMENT/SYSTEM

II – ONE YEAR CONTRACT FOR REGULAR LANDSCAPE AND GROUND MAINTENANCE

The PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (PICC), through its Approved Budget for CY 2008 intends to apply the sum of:

	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
I – ONE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR THE MONTHLY OPERATION & MAINTENANCE SERVICE OF PICC' AUDIO EQUIPMENT/SYSTEM	P2,634,500.40
II – ONE YEAR CONTRACT FOR REGULAR LANDSCAPE AND GROUND MAINTENANCE	P4,471,141.92

to payments for the above-mentioned procurement of services. Bids in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PICC now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for abovementioned requirement to be procured. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat of the PICC and may inspect and obtain the bidding documents at the address given below anytime during office hours from November 13, 2007 to November 21, 2007.

	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	BIDDING
ONE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR THE MONTHLY OPERATION & MAINTENANCE SERVICE OF PICC' AUDIO EQUIPMENT/SYSTEM	November 22, 2007 2:00 p.m.	December 4, 2007 10:00 a.m.
ONE YEAR CONTRACT FOR REGULAR LANDSCAPE AND GROUND MAINTENANCE	November 29, 2007 10:00 a.m.	December 19, 2007 10:00 a.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the PICC-BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amounts indicated below:

ONE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR THE MONTHLY OPERATION & MAINTENANCE SERVICE OF PICC' AUDIO EQUIPMENT/SYSTEM	P4,000.00
ONE YEAR CONTRACT FOR REGULAR LANDSCAPE AND GROUND MAINTENANCE	P4,000.00

The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PICC-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BID'S AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER
CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City 1307
(02) 551-8230 or (632) 551-7920 loc 7855 and 7149
Telefax No. (02) 551-6873
Email add: BAC1@picc.gov.ph

(Sgd.) VICTORIA C. BERCILES
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – November 10, 2007)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 9, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc..	59	59	58.5	58.5	809,700
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	66.5	67.5	66.5	67	1,010,000
748	540	China Banking Corp.	700	700	680	690	1,770
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	530,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	59	60	59	59	2,639,100
65.5	37	Philippine National Bank	45	46	45	45.5	516,800
68	43	Philippine Savings Bank	61	61	61	61	2,800
39.57	18.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	26	26	25.5	26	344,100
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	75.5	75.5	75	75	426,100
66	46.48	Union Bank of the Philippines	48	48.5	47	47	148,800
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.2	4.4	4	4.4	1,070,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc..	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.02	1,583,000
16.25	4.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc..	13.25	13.75	13	13.25	403,400
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc..	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	1,196,000
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.1	4,989,000
3.1	1.3	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc..	1.4	1.82	1.4	1.82	7,779,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,215.00	1,215.00	10,000
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	20
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	168,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.1	4,517,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60.5	61	60.5	61	619,000
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	82	82.5	80	80	1,055,000
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc..	17	17.25	16.75	17.25	719,200
105.45	24.09	Manila Electric Co.	80	81	80	80	300,600
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.1	7.2	6.9	7.2	39,089,000
7.4	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	2,188,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc..	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	21,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	15,000
2.3	1	Trans Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.86	1.86	1,568,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5	5.2	5	5.2	7,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc..	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.86	127,000
2.4	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	11,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	49	49.5	48.5	48.5	188,800
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	90,000
3.7	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	330,000
80	54.5	San Miguel Corp. "A"	55.5	56.5	54.5	56	394,500
88	57	San Miguel Corp. "B"	58	59	58	58.5	753,500
20.75	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.5	5,611,100
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	460,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5	1,877,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc..	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	4,492,000
7	2.95	Republic Cement Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	150,000
2	0.57	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.08	3,081,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemirez Technologies Inc.	4.5	4.65	4.5	4.6	390,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Pricon Resources Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	4,060,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	271,000
0.185	0.049	AJO.net Holdings Inc..	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.155	66,530,000
1.28	0.24	APC Group Inc..	0.69	0.69	0.67	0.68	1,450,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc.. "A"	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	273,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc.. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	13,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc..	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	711,000
0.021	0.008	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	30,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc..	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	4,147,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.36	2.4	2.36	2.38	633,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc..	3.25	4.7	3.25	4.25	209,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	590	590	580	590	277,780
5.8	1.5	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	2,998,000
12	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc..	11.25	11.75	11	11.25	2,862,700
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc..	4	4.2	4	4.2	7,000
8	2.7	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.8	106,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc..	11	11.5	11	11.5	15,100
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.1	6.2	2,068,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	38,000
0.28	0.016	Pacilica Inc.. "A"	0.215	0.215	0.205	0.205	74,060,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc..	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	1,480,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	372.5	375	372.5	372.5	310,280
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	3,480,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc..	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	51,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,510,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc..	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	265,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.7	24,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	16	16.25	15.75	16	4,491,900
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	1,610,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc..	3.8	3.95	3.8	3.95	16,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc..	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.62	2,310,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	610,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc..	0.76	0.78	0.76	0.77	2,930,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc..	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	3,110,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc..	0.99	1.02	0.99	1	12,860,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc..	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.72	24,588,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc..	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.59	310,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.05	4.1	24,759,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5	650,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	220,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	2,890,000
9.2	1.32	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	4	4.95	4	4.95	60,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	19.75	20	19.5	19.75	1,945,600
5.9	1.73	SM Development Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	5,720,000
13.5	7.52	SM Prime Holdings Inc..	11.25	11.25	11	11	6,520,000
3.25	1.4	Shang Properties Inc..	2.2	2.24	2.2	2.24	6,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc..	2.6	2.65	2.38	2.44	3,576,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc..	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	110,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc..	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.29	3,230,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.8	4.8	1,093,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	34	33	34	94,000
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc.	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.2	1,554,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc..	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	830,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc..	1,690.00	1,695.00	1,685.00	1,690.00	25,420
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,980.00	3,000.00	2,980.00	2,995.00	168,410
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.3	223,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc..	9	9.4	8.9	9.4	2,032,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.5	8.6	8.4	8.6	977,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.041	36,100,000
0.32	0.044	Island Information and Technology Inc..	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	11,870,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	54,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb Com Inc..	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.0525	60,000,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	3.05	3.05	2.95	3	1,255,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc..	4	4	4	4	10,000
42.5	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	40.5	41	40	40.5	3,600,400
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	7,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	265,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc..	0.82	0.83	0.8	0.82	2,910,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	240,000
		EDUCATION					
950	650	Far Eastern University Inc.	805	850	805	850	1,270
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	30,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2	Macroasia Corp.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.1	236,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	561,000
30	8.9	Paxys Inc.	9.1	9.2	9	9.1	618,000
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	195,600,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc.. "A"	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.6	2,048,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc.. "B"	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	3,255,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.25	15.75	15.25	15.5	2,084,800
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	12,000
12.75	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc..	12.75	12.75	11.5	11.75	3,443,000
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc..	2.34	2.4	2.3	2.3	40,977,000
0.47	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.4	0.47	0.39	0.4	897,230,000
0.5	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.42	0.5	0.42	0.44	321,010,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.029	1,464,600,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.034	0.032	0.032	297,100,000
30	2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc..	25	25.5	24.75	24.75	2,681,100
0.021	0.0068	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	69,100,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	10.75	11.25	10.5	11.25	20,068,400
49	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	46.5	49	46.5	48	719,500
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.83	0.84	0.83	0.84	530,000
1.8	0.69	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.26	331,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,530,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	122,800,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	32,000,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.75	11	10.5	10.75	37,400
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	179,200,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	931.18 DOWN	5.25	23,838,190	410,246,830.00
Industrial	4,531.63 DOWN	8.28	72,114,700	687,251,955.00
Holding Firms	2,139.12 UP	2.30	206,509,860	398,005,560.00
Property	1,649.32 DOWN	5.73	103,904,500	390,073,850.00
Service	1,820.29 UP	1.48	123,691,500	767,561,320.00
Mining & Oil	8,914.84 UP	491.17	3,656,357,200	1,125,098,530.00
All Shares Index	2,288.70 DOWN	2.53		
PSEi	3,703.66 UP	11.56		
		GRAND TOTALS	4,186,415,950	3,778,238,045.00

Stocks up on rate cut hopes

STOCK PRICES REbounded yesterday as investors snapped up bargain stocks on expectation the central bank will cut interest rates next week.

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index advanced 11.56 points, or 0.31 percent, at 3,703.66, after plunging 2.54 percent Thursday.

"Hopes of a rate cut next week inspired some buying. However, volume was thin ahead of the weekend, suggesting that investors aren't too keen on taking aggressive positions," said Accord Capital Equities analyst Lawrence de Leon.

Mining issues led the advance on higher metal prices.

Philex Mining Corp. surged 7.1 percent at P11.25 after reporting a 50-percent rise in its third-quarter net profit from a year ago on higher metal prices and increased sales volume.

Another gold producer, Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., jumped 21.2 percent at 40 centavos, after signing a preliminary agreement with Zijin Mining Group Co., China's biggest gold miner, to sell a 20-percent stake in a Philippine project. *AP*

September exports jump 4.7% to $4.37B

From page B1

shoot up due to the introduction of more product models.

Victor Abola, economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific, earlier said that average exports growth for the year would likely settle at a decent 6-7 percent. But he said the slowdown early in the year in the US economy, the Philippines biggest export market, would somehow pull down exports growth to a single-digit level.

Jonathan Ravelas, market strategist for Banco de Oro, said the drop in electronics exports could still have to do with the challenges confronting the US economy, including the subprime market woes.

Ravelas said, however, that electronics exports were expected to pick up in the last quarter of the year. He projected exports to grow between 6 and 6.5 percent for the entire year.

The appreciation of the peso to higher-than-expected levels was also blamed for the likelihood of a single-digit exports growth this year. A stronger currency makes Philippine-made goods more expensive and therefore less competitive.

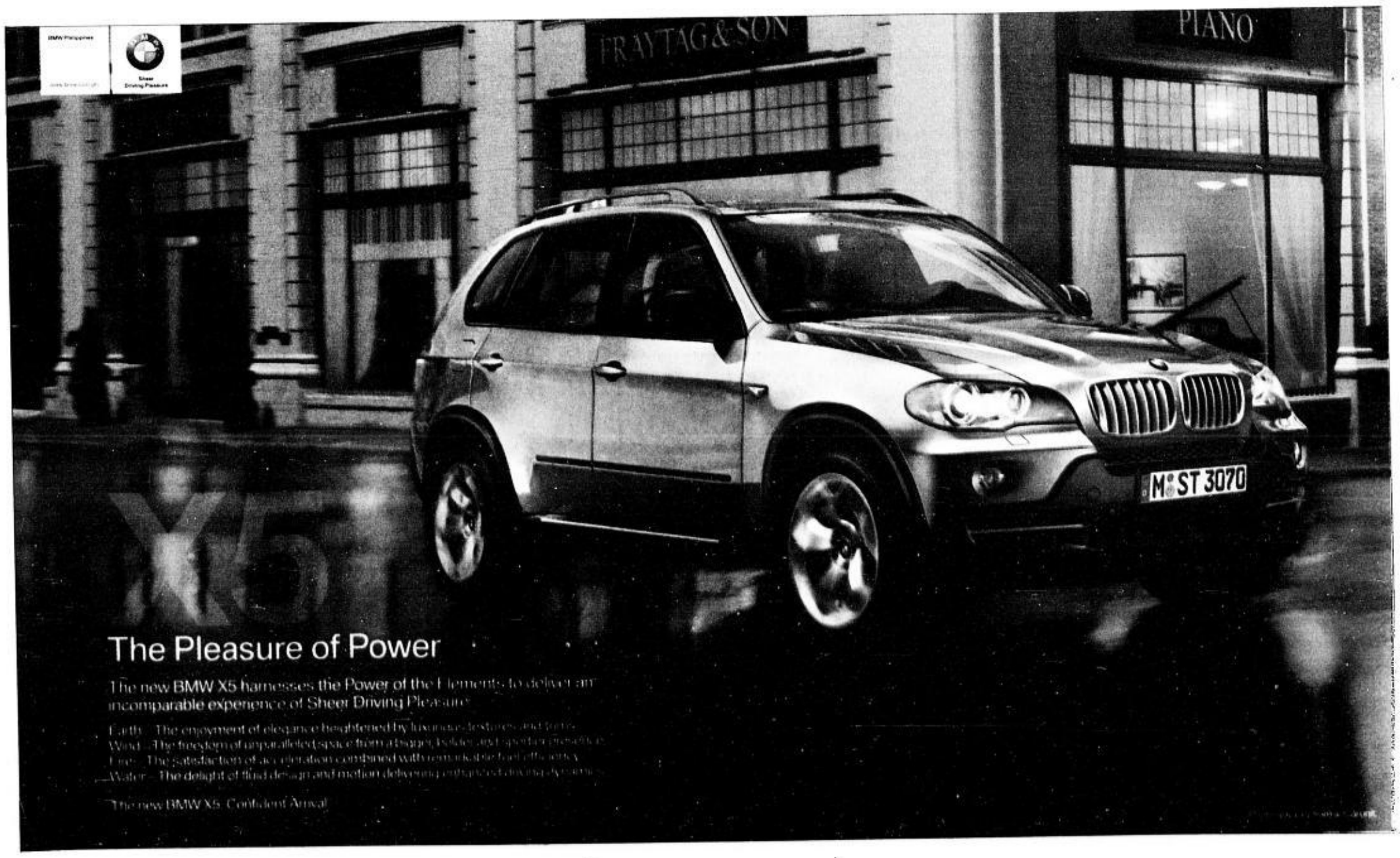
Yesterday, the peso broke into the 42-to-a-dollar territory. Under the government's economic assumptions for 2007, the peso was seen to average at around 48 to a dollar.

Other top exports for September, according to the NSO, were: articles of apparel and clothing accessories ($193.03 million, down 16.8 percent year-on-year); cathodes and section of cathodes of refined copper ($126.79 million, up 28.4 percent); woodcraft and furniture ($88.92 million, up 33.2 percent), wiring sets for motor vehicles ($85.87 million, up 15.9 percent); petroleum ($76.71 million, down 31.6 percent), metal components ($42.68 million, up 8 percent) and bananas ($35.67 million, up 16.8 percent).

The NSO said the United States remained the Philippines' biggest export market, accounting for 17 percent of export earnings for September. Exports to the United States reached $741.88 million, 10.4 percent lower than the $827.72 million in September last year.

Japan was the second-biggest export destination for Philippine-made products. Exports to Japan hit $625.58 million, down 3.6 percent year-on-year.

Other top export markets for September were: Hong Kong ($598.55 million), China ($464.85 million), Netherlands ($335.36 million), Singapore ($242.35 million), Malaysia ($235.39 million), Germany ($176.35 million), South Korea ($170.30 million) and Taiwan ($144.28 million).



A large Australian company urgently needs Engineers with job descriptions below. It is most important that the candidate comes from a mechanical/construction background, either Gold or Iron ore mineral processing. Candidates may e-mail their resumé to:

rpaladio_drillingadvisory@yahoo.com
or fax to (02) 952-0531

PROJECT ENGINEER
JOB PURPOSE

Reporting to the Manager, the Project Engineer provides engineering services and project management support, as well as advice, support and monitoring to other less-experienced staff involved on the project or contract. Responsibilities vary on the Division and the complexity of the project and whether the Engineer is based on or off site.

Qualifications:
- Tertiary qualifications with relevant on site industry experience in areas such as resources, maintenance, industrial services, engineering & construction
- Verbal & written communication skills
- Sound computer skills in Word, Excel, MS Project and Primavera
- Willing to work on a wide range of projects & tasks involving on & off site work and often irregular hours

Competencies:
- Innovative focus on business solutions
- Project tending assessment, planning and in some instances, design.
- Driving safety, ensuring client confidence
- Confirming project requirements, scope, schedule, budget, risks, costs, procurement and quality
- Managing the execution
- Organizing project labour
- Assessing & developing team performance
- Coaching & mentoring staff
- Managing customer relationships

PLANNING ENGINEER
JOB PURPOSE

Reporting to the Planning and Controls Manager, the Planning Engineer provides supports and assistance for the planning and Coordination of project works across the Group. This includes ensuring that the planning is safe, logical, practical and realistic; that adequate resources are available when required; and follow-up of physical progress reporting. The position is a member of Project Execution team upon the awarding of tenders:

Qualifications:
- Tertiary qualifications with relevant on site industry experience in areas such as resources, maintenance, industrial services, engineering & construction
- Verbal & written communication skills
- Sound computer skills in Word, Excel, MS Project and Primavera
- Willing to work on a wide range of projects & tasks involving on & off site work and often irregular hours

Competencies:
- Innovative focus on business solutions
- Project tending assessment, planning and in some instances, review of design.
- Driving and promoting safety that ensures client confidence
- Confirming project requirements, scope, schedule, budget, risks, costs, procurement and quality
- Assessing & developing team performance
- Coaching & mentoring staff
- Developing and managing customer relationships

ESTIMATOR
JOB PURPOSE

The Estimator provides support and assistance for the compilation of tenders and proposals for Engineering Construction Projects. This includes reviewing tender documents, visiting sites, liaising with clients to obtain information and calculating costs for the tender. The position is a member of the tendering team for major tendering processes and takes the lead role on bids if required.

Qualifications:
- Tertiary Qualifications in related area would be an advantage.
- Experience in a multidisciplinary environment – civil, structural, mechanical or pipeline fabrication and installation.
- Relevant on site industry experience (e.g. resources, engineering and construction industry).
- Estimating experience and knowledge of relevant construction norms and industry rates.

Competencies
- Project tendering and bid compilation
- Manage overall project scope, execution and quality
- Manage project schedule (time) and risk
- Prepare project budget to manage procurement and costs
- Establish the team and manage key customer relationships

ALSO REQUIRES BOILER MAKERS

Successful applicants will receive Australian standard salaries & benefits plus a chance to be assigned in Australia.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of Ten (10) Lots of 1 x 65,000MT +/- 10% Per Lot of Imported Steaming Coal to Masinloc CFTPP (Regular, Spot), Batch 1, CY2008

1. The National Power Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above supply.
2. It intends to apply the sum as shown below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), inclusive of maximum loading tolerance:

PLANT	VOLUME, MT	Approved Budget for the Contract Inclusive of Maximum Loading Tolerance, Php/Lot	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date, Time and Venue
MASINLOC	10 Lots of 1x65,000MTs (Regular/Spot)	385,385,000.00	November 21, 2007, 9:00 AM Hariraya Room	December 3, 2007, 9:00 AM Pahiyas Room

Forex Php 49.00 = 1 US$

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-Part A of RA 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, Organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from BCSD upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00 per mine source either in cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. Bidders are encouraged to submit Eligibility Documents on or before November 21, 2007 for evaluation and issuance of Class A certification. **Pursuant to GPPB Resolution No. 22-2006, prospective bidders should register with PhilGEPS and secure the corresponding Certificate of Registration.**
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at designated venue on the bidding dates. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount stated in the Tender Document. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids, to annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders. Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned.
8. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD), NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City at Tel. No. 922-1622 or visit NPC (www.napocor.gov.ph) and DBM (www.procurementservice.net.com) websites.

(Sgd.) JUAN CARLOS J. GUADARRAMA
Vice President
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - November 10, 2007)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Procurement of 2008 Integrated Cargo Handling Services

The National Food Authority, NFA Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City, invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and submit bids for the provision of Integrated Cargo Handling Services at Subic Port for the year 2008. The volume to be discharged, the corresponding Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) and the bidding fees are as follows:

LOT	DESCRIPTION	VOLUME/MT	ABC	BIDDING FEE
I	NFA Imported Grains	222,000	P 81,209,820.00	P10,000.00
II	USPL 480	44,100	16,601,180.40	5,000.00

The scope of integrated services include Arrastre, Stevedoring, Wharfage, Hustling, Truckscaling, Opening/Closing of Hatches, Stand-By Charges, Import Entry documentation/Gate Pass, and other Port Services.

The application for eligibility and pertinent bidding documents can be secured from NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City, Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee and submission of certified xerox copy each of the following documents:

1) DTI business name registration, CDA Registration and/or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate;
2) Updated Mayor's Permit and Official Receipt;
3) Current registration certificate as cargo handler/Permit To Operate (PTO) issued by SBMA;
4) Current Certificate of good standing with SBMA;
5) Certification of at least three (3) years experience in grains (in bags) cargo handling/ unloading (pierside) for the past three (3) years issued by PPA or SBMA as principal contractor

The issuance of bid documents, pre-bidding conference, bidding proper and other schedule of activities shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City on the following dates:

Particulars	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	November 12-21, 2007 (Regular Working Days)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	November 22, 2007 (10:00 AM)
3. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	December 04, 2007 (10:00 AM)

The bidding of Integrated Cargo Handling Services at Subic Port shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan city with Telephone Nos. (044) 463-1168, (044) 463-2539 and Fax No. (044) 600-2693.

The National Food Authority, Region III reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(SGD) RUBEN J. RESIDE
Asst. Regional Manager/
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - November 10, 2007)

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Cultural Center of the Philippines
SENTRONG PANGKULTURA NG PILIPINAS

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of the Project: Hiring of a Game Developer for an Interactive Computer Game on Philippine Arts and Culture.

Approved Budget for Contract is PhP3,000,000.00

1. The Cultural Center of the Philippines, through its Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC"), intends to procure the services of a Game Developer (GD) for an Interactive Computer Game on Philippine Arts and Culture.
2. CCP now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent ("LOIs") from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for the services of Game Developer. Interested GDs must submit their LOIs on November 20, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., by hand, and secure the Eligibility Documents and Shortlisting Requirements therefrom.

   Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents and Short Listing Requirements shall be on the date of the Opening of Eligibility Documents on November 28, 2007, 1:30 p.m. at the CCP Boardroom, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa. Only those found eligible shall be considered for short listing and only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The CCPBAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted a Letter of Intent and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A).
4. In accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 ("R.A. 9184"), bidding for the hiring of a GD will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures. Only bids from short listed GDs will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents to be obtained from the CCP. The contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification. The CCPBAC shall evaluate bids using the ***Quality Based Evaluation procedure (QBE)***.
5. The complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the qualified bidders in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00) from the CCPBAC at the address given below from Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The deadline for submission of bids from the short listed GDs shall be on December 07, 2007; 1:30 p.m.
6. The CCP/CCPBAC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bids, waive any formality in the bid requirements, to declare the bidding a failure, to annul the bidding process without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Government.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3667 / 632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-5515960
Website: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ARIEL S.R. YONZON
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Nov. 10 & 17, 2007)

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Bring Resumé with Picture
VERSACOM INTL. CORPORATION
8276 Camachile St., SAV, Makati City
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Qualifications: must have 3 years experience on the same field, Must know how to speak Korean language
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#3 Lots 83 & 84 Efficiency Avenue Subic Bay Industrial Park, Phase 1, Subic Bay Freeport Zone or may submit the resumé to:
www.s.h.enterprise@subictel.com

DCB TRADING INCORPORATED
based in Subic Bay is in urgent need of high caliber individual to join our team.
We are looking for one (1)

Operation Manager

Criteria:
- Graduate of any course
- 3 years or up of related foreign operation
- work experience on automobiles
- fluent in Nihonggo, Sri Lankan and English
- Excellent communication skills

Interested applicants may directly apply and/or submit their applications/resumé to the address indicated below:

DCB TRADING INCORPORATED
Human Resources Department
Lot 2 EMS Area, 14th Gate, Perimeter Rd.,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Zambales
Telefax No.: (047) 252-8040

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
Wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO BID
"AS IS, WHERE IS"
For the sale of the following:

		DESCRIPTION
12	units	Air handling units
1	unit	Unserviceable 240 York Chiller
1	unit	Generator set Siemens brand 647 kw cap
4	units	Cooling towers
1	lot	Air-conditioning piping
2	units	Open type air conditioning 30 ton capacity
	lot	Unserviceable office equipment, furniture, fixtures, and kitchen utensils
	lot	Mechanical equipment, tamford alternator, water pump and electric motors
	unit	Unserviceable Isuzu truck
	pc	Cadillac frame without engine
	lot	Condenser 20 TR
1	lot	Other scrap materials

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 5:00 p.m. on December 4, 2007 at Property and Supply Division, Finance and Administrative Building, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City and shall then and there be opened for the sale of the items bidded. Pre-bid conference shall be held on November 23 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the above address.

All bids must be submitted with the proposal bond deposit in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to 10% of the total bid price.

The said items are available for inspection right after the pre-bid conference until 4:00 p.m. and on November 27, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional information and bid forms may be secured from MS. LEONILA S. DE DIOS at the above address or call telephone numbers 832-3666 and 551-0030.

The CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be advantageous to the Center

(Sgd.) TERESA S. RANCES
Chairman, Committee on Disposal

(PDI - Nov. 10, 11 & 18, 2007)

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ALONG SHAW BLVD., MANDALUYONG CITY
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OBITUARIES

"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7

ADELAIDO REÑA MAGNAYE

of Ibaan, Batangas

has peacefully joined his Creator on November 8, 2007 at the age of 72.

Beloved husband to **Nena Luz**,
great father to **Michael, Heidi, Peter & Jomai, Grace & Andrew**,
loving grandfather to **Carla, Lorenzo, Miguel, Christopher, Samantha & Alexander**,
dear brother to **Greg, Conching, Rudy & Miriam**.

We request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.
His remains lie in state at the Sta. Maria della Strada Church
Katipunan Ave. corner Pansol, Quezon City.

Cremation on November 14, 2007 after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations be made to SMDS Project 10/10 and Calamias Chapel, Ibaan, Batangas

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

Investors shy away from MRT

Financiers rethink commitment due to gov't conditions

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE COUNTRY MAY LOSE ITS biggest and most economically beneficial transportation project, the Metro Rail Transit 7 (MRT 7), if the government insists on making unreasonable demands on its investors.

The Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) has endorsed the unsolicited proposal of Universal LRT Corp. Ltd. to the Cabinet-level Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) after competing bidders backed out of a "Swiss Challenge" set up to seek proposals that may be more financially advantageous to the government.

In a Swiss challenge, the government invites other parties to match or exceed the highest bid submitted for a particular project.

But instead of approving the project, the ICC sought to insert a conditional performance undertaking to the final agreement. ICC wanted the proponent to pledge the capacity fee against the performance undertaking.

"[It] meant that, if we didn't develop the real estate component at the pace government wants, it would confiscate our bond and would not pay us amortization, or pay less than the amount agreed," said Manuel A. Reyes, ULC financial consultant. "That would affect even the creditors for the rail, who have nothing to do with the real estate buildup."

According to Eli Levin, ULC managing director and CEO, "it is not a question of whether we like or do not like the additional demand, it just makes financing impossible."

Levin also told reporters that the move would practically result in the cancelation of the project, "which is not only deficit neutral but will decongest Edsa and bring huge economic benefits and energy savings to the country."

Levin explained that, as part of a deficit-neutral clause, ULC already agreed to cut its internal rate of return to 11.9 percent from 16.9 percent. The reduced rate of return means ULC will bear the financial losses if passenger volume and revenues drop.

ULC also gave a performance bond of $100 million and agreed to place an additional bond of $8 million a year over three years for the real estate component.

The government last month subjected ULC's bid proposal to a Swiss Challenge, in accordance with the Build-Operate-Transfer Law. But expected challengers Sumitomo Corp., World Chi Finance Group and Izumo Contractors did not submit any offer.

The $1.23-billion MRT 7 project proposal is now on its eighth year and is awaiting the final green light from ICC.

"The original target date of completion was July 2007," Levin said. "Imagine, it would have been finished by now."

MRT 7 is supposed to be 23 kilometers long with 14 stations, connecting MRT 3 station in North Avenue, Quezon City, to San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Petrolift gets regulator's nod to go public

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission (SEC) has approved the plan of oil and gas tankering firm Petrolift Inc. to go public.

According to documents released by the SEC, Petrolift's public offer will consist of 456.76 million to 713.39 million shares at P4.90 to P7.65 apiece.

The offer is expected to raise some P2 billion to P5.5 billion for the company and its selling shareholders without an over-allotment of shares.

The primary offer will consist of 326.25 to 509.56 million shares at between P4.90 and P7.65 each.

The secondary offer—or sell offers from existing shareholders—will consist of 130.5 to 203.8 million shares at the same price range.

An over-allotment of up to 97.77 million shares at the same price range is also provided.

BDO Capital and Investment Corp. has been tapped as the issue manager and lead underwriter for the planned IPO, Petrolift earlier said in a statement.

Proceeds from the IPO will be used by the company to acquire more double-hulled tanker vessels, convert existing tankers to double hull vessels, and acquire dry bulk carriers and heavy equipment for mining logistics.

The company expects a sharp rise in demand for oil tankering and logistics services within a year as the government is set to implement Memorandum Circular 2007-001, which mandates that all fuel tankers be double-hulled by April 2008.

Compared to single-hulled tankers, double-hulled vessels provide an added layer of protection for cargo, minimizing the risk of spillage and associated marine pollution in the event of an accident.

Currently, Petrolift has the largest capacity of double-hull compliant tankers in the country, acquiring three such vessels in the last 12 months.

To promote bioengineered corn, DA puts up incentives

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS assured corn farmers of continued government support as it promotes the safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology for the staple.

In a dialogue with corn growers, Agriculture Assistant Secretary for Operations Dennis Araullo said that farmers who choose to plant the genetically improved *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) corn will receive subsidy under the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani corn program.

The corn subsidy is P1,200 a hectare.

Araullo yesterday met with some 50 Bt corn farmers, who trooped to the DA to express their support for the government's ongoing biotechnology programs and policies.

Araullo explained that the DA encourages farmers to grow high yielding crops developed through biotechnology, for them to maximize profit.

"We need to increase productivity," he said. "With limited land devoted for food production, the only way to increase productivity is through advanced farming technology. Biotechnology is a solution to such problems."

The farmers, mostly members of the Philippine Maize Federation, had asked Araullo to allow them to use the corn subsidy to buy Bt corn seeds.

PhilMaize president Rosalie Ellasus, a former overseas Filipino worker, said the country can become self-sufficient in corn if the government will aggressively promote biotech crops such as Bt corn.

Bt corn is a genetically engineered corn induced with the *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a bacterium found in soil that is a natural enemy of insects such as the corn borer.

Ellasus is the first recipient of the Kleckner Trade and Technology Advancement Award given by the Truth About Trade and Technology.

Ellasus said the dialogue was also meant to allay the fears of Bt corn farmers that the government would give in to pressures exerted by anti-GMO advocates.

"If they will ban GMOs, we will no longer plant corn," Ellasus said. "We might as well stop farming, especially now that we know the benefits of biotech crops compared to traditional crops."

Gerardo Barica, a farmer from Zamboanga del Norte, said he started planting Bt corn last year.

Barica said he was surprised that his yield increased from 3 tons to 5 tons a hectare, allowing him to gain a net profit of P22,000 for every hectare.

PSALM POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

for the

Procurement of Services of a Health Provider for the Annual Physical Examination (APE) for PSALM Corporation

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php600,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for the Procurement of Services for a Health Provider for the Annual Physical Examination (APE) for PSALM Corporation. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Services for A Health Provider for the Annual Physical Examination (APE) for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **ITB**. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php1,000.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 16 November 2007 at 10:00 AM at the 6th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 29 November 2007, 10:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit (1% of the ABC), Bank Guarantee (1 ½% of ABC) or Surety Bond (2 ½% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 29 November 2007 at 10:30 AM at the 6th floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
HELENA C. TOLENTINO
7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telefax (02)8930699
e-mail: *hctolentino@psalm.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **HELENA C. TOLENTINO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI–Nov. 10, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
CATALYST MICROFINANCE INVESTORS PHILIPPINES INC. 15/F Strata 2000 Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Shah Md. Abdul Wahab Bangladeshi	President
CATALYST MICROFINANCE INVESTORS PHILIPPINES INC. 15/F Strata 2000 Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Md. Mujibar Rahman Bangladeshi	Director
CATALYST MICROFINANCE INVESTORS PHILIPPINES INC. 15/F Strata 2000 Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Md. Abdul Karim Biswas Bangladeshi	Director/Team Member
INFLUX GLOBAL LINK CORP. B2 L23 H. Poblador St., Metrocor, BF Resort Village, Talon Dos, Las Piñas City	Armstrong Nwachukwu Eze-Prophet Nigerian	Manager
AJAY LENDING & TRADING CO. 41 Ilaya St., Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Manjit Kaur Indian	Assistant Supervisor
MACRO'WORLD RESEARCH PHILIPPINES, INC. SSHG Law Centre 105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Grady Samuel White American	Senior Learning Manager
RMH TELESERVICES ASIA PACIFIC, INC. 6/F ELJ Communications Center (ABS-CBN), Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City	Matthew Raymond Brock American	Director of Collections
RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL LANGUAGE CENTER INC. 3-H Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Eun Young Cho Korean	Supervisor
RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL LANGUAGE CENTER INC. 3-H West Gate Tower, Investment Drive, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Mi Hee Jung (w/o Lim) Korean	General Manager
HITE, INC. 109 Neptune St., Bel-Air, Makati City	Kwang Chol Shin Korean	Export Manager
SPECTRUM OSO ASIA LTD., INC. 3/F B & M Bldg., 116 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Rodney Gene Klinge American	Country Operations Manager
TAKASHIO POWERS INTERNATIONAL CORP. Unit 16-M 16/F Burgundy Corp. Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Shinji Suzuki Japanese	Sales Manager
QINGTAN WENCHENG MANUFACTURING CORP. 48 Kalakal St., San Rafael Village, Navotas Metro Manila	Pengzhi Cai Chinese	Supervisor
JUNNAN TRADING LTD. CO. 1939 Jose Abad Santos St., Tondo, Manila	Wing Chak Sze Chinese	Supervisor

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI–November 10, 2007)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of 2008 Warehouse Handling Services Requirements of NFA Region III

The National Food Authority, NFA Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City, invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the provision of handling services for the movement of grain stocks and by-products in the warehouses, ricemills and other installations in Region III and loading/unloading to/from trucks said commodities. Volume to be handled divided in various lots with corresponding Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) are as follows:

PROVINCES	LOT NO.	LOCATION OF WAREHOUSE	VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (IN BAGS)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
Aurora	I	GID-Baler	262,750	1,198,140.00
		Bartolome-Ma. Aurora		
		GID-Casiguran		
Bataan	II	GID 1 & 2-Balanga	420,000	1,586,400.00
		FLGC-Dinalupihan		
Bulacan	III	GID 1, 2 & 3-Balagtas	600,000	2,904,000.00
	IV	GID 1 & 2-San Ildefonso	306,000	1,481,040.00
	V	GID 1 & 2-Tikay	800,000	3,872,000.00
	VI	GID 1 & 2-Sta. Rita	770,000	3,726,800.00
	VII	Lease Warehouses	1,200,000	5,808,000.00
Nueva Ecija	VIII	Whse 1-13-Cab City	1,070,000	5,200,200.00
		Whse 1 & 2-Gapan		
	IX	Aliaga Whse-Aliaga	420,000	2,041,200.00
		GID-Bongabon		
		Guimba Whse 1-2		
Pampanga	X	Sindalan 1 and 2	770,000	3,634,400.00
	XI	Lease Warehouses	570,000	2,690,000.00
Tarlac	XII	Aguso 1-3 & 5	520,000	2,704,000.00
	XIII	GID 1-3	420,000	2,184,000.00
		Concepcion-Jefmin		
Zambales	XIV	GID and Mango Terminal-Iba Castillejos Whse	370,000	1,857,400.00

The prospective bidder may bid in any or all lots upon payment of a non-refundable application/bidding fee and upon submission of a certified photocopy of the following requirements:

1.) DTI business name registration, CDA Registration and/or SEC Registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate;
2.) Valid and current Mayor's Permit and Official Receipt

Application/bidding fees are as follows:

LOT NO	BIDDING FEE	LOT NO	BIDDING FEE
I	P2,000.00	VIII	P3,000.00
II	P2,000.00	IX	P2,000.00
III	P2,000.00	X	P2,000.00
IV	P2,000.00	XI	P2,000.00
V	P2,000.00	XII	P2,000.00
VI	P2,000.00	XIII	P2,000.00
VII	P3,000.00	XIV	P2,000.00

The issuance of bid documents, pre-bidding conference, bidding proper and other schedule of activities shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City on the following dates:

Particulars	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	November 12-21, 2007 (Regular Working Days)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	November 22, 2007 (2:00 PM)
3. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	December 04, 2007 (2:00 PM)

All bidding procedures shall follow the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan city with Telephone Nos. (044) 463-1168, (044) 463-2539 and Fax No. (044) 600-2693.

The National Food Authority, Region III reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(SGD) RUBEN J. RESIDE
Asst. Regional Manager/
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – November 10, 2007)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Low nicotine boosts craving to smoke, psychiatrists say

By Tessa R. Salazar

YOU MAY BE smoking a low tar, low nicotine stick and think you're better off with it. Here's bad news for you. This would only double, even triple your use.

This was what psychiatrists revealed during a Nov. 6 media health forum with the Group for Addiction Psychiatry of the Philippines.

"When they started out with fad diets such as low sugar, low fat in the United States, you know what the statistics were. Obesity in America doubled. The same trend will happen when you shift to low tar, low nicotine cigarette. You will only just use them twice," said Dr. Edgardo Juan L. Tolentino, president of GAPP, during the Philippine College of Physicians-Zuellig Foundation health forum.

Dr. Benita Sta. Ana-Ponio, one of GAPP's advisers, also said the poorest households spend more on tobacco than on clothing, food and other basic necessities.

One in five students smokes, and more than half of these have parents who smoke, she added.

Ponio said scare tactics and prominent warnings on the dangers of smoking have had no effect on smokers, who tend to ignore them.

Dangers of smoking

Still, psychiatrists at the forum cited the dangers of smoking. Out of the 10 leading causes of death in the country, five are smoking related, they said.

One stick contains about 60 carcinogens. Tobacco smoke contains over 400 toxic chemicals or poisons. The three most notorious ones—tar, carbon monoxide and nicotine—surge into the body with each puff, wreaking havoc on the user's health (and even more so for those who inhale the second-hand smoke).

Major health problems that would eventually hit smokers include heart attacks (coronary thrombosis or myocardial infarction), angina, hardening of the arteries, impotence, stroke, kidney trouble, high blood pressure and lung cancer (for smokers and secondhand smokers).

Other diseases would be cancers of the mouth, throat and tongue; cervical cancer, the "smoker's lung" (long-term inflammation of the air passages); and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (obstructive airways disease as well as ulcers and indigestion).

Immediate positive effects

Quitting smoking altogether offers immediate positive effects, according to psychiatrists. Circulation improves soon after quitting the habit. Blood pressure would most likely return to normal. Senses of smell and taste return, and breathing starts to become easier.

In the long term, giving up tobacco makes one live longer. The risk of getting cancer decreases with each year one stays smoke-free.

For inquiries on how to treat addiction and other mental illnesses, e-mail familylinkphils@yahoo.com or gap_ppa@yahoo.com.ph, or call 643-4572 or 6408395 local 103 or 110.

UP Diliman national computing champ

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

FIFTY TEAMS FROM 24 SCHOOLS competed for the top spot in the Association for Computing Machinery-First Philippine National Inter-Collegiate Programming Competition (ACM ICPC Philippines 2007) held last Oct. 20 at the De La Salle University Canlubang Campus in Laguna.

Organized by the Computing Society of the Philippines, in cooperation with ACM, the event aims to provide college students the chance to sharpen and demonstrate their problem solving, programming and teamwork skills. The contest provides a platform for ACM, industry and academe to encourage and focus public attention on the youth as they pursue excellence in computing.

Each competing team consisted of three students. During the contest, each of team tried to outsmart each other by using a computer to solve six problems in three hours. The team with the most number of problems solved at the fastest time won the competition. The problems ranged from easy to complex, and included computer science topics such as data structures, combinatorics, graph algorithms and computational methods.

Winners

Marte Raphael Soliza, Ralph Rainier Pineda and Reginald Eli Deinla of Team UP Fighting Maroons from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman emerged champion. They were coached by Eric R. Tambasacan and Pablo Manalastas. They are able to solve five problems in 365 minutes, the only team which was able to solve more than three problems.

The second to seventh placers were able to solve three problems, and their rankings were determined by how fast it took them to do so.

In second place was Team cxxC from the Ateneo de Manila University (Admu). James Choa, Wilhansen Li and John Patrick Manalo were coached by Pablo Manalastas, Jal de Vera, Ramon Akie Mejiea, Eric Vidal Tan and John Paul Vergara. The team solved the problems in 148 minutes.

Team Heaven from UP Los Baños, composed of Jeremiah Pascual, Reinald Pugoy and Maverick Crisostomo, came in third. Rainier Alexis L. Rapera was the coach, and the students solved the problems in 151 minutes.

In fourth place was Team Automata from Admu. Ivan John Clement, Jason Christian Gaguan and Maria Clarisse Ligunas solved the problems in 196 minutes.

Ralph Justin Arce, Vanessa Rose Castro and James Wyson, of Team 43 from UP Diliman solved the problems in 234 minutes. They ranked fifth.

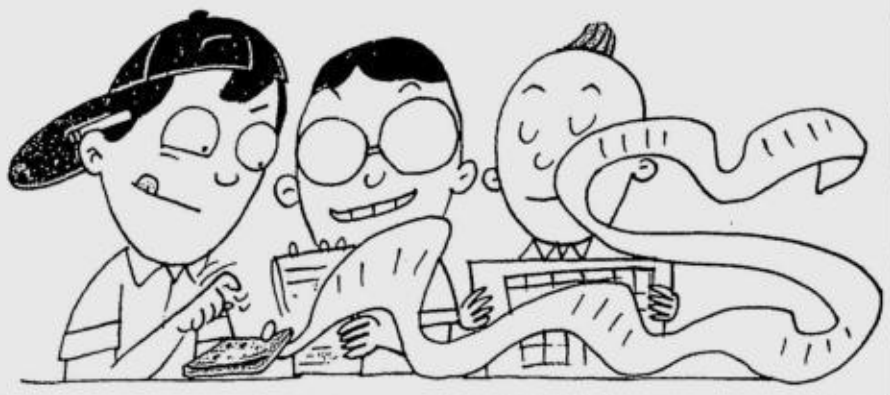
Team DLSU-2 from De La Salle University Manila ranked sixth. Brian Paul Samson, Christian Valeen Chiu and Jeric Bryle Dy, coached by Danniel Alcantara, solved the problems in 291 minutes.

Another Admu team, Excessive Output, emerged seventh. Jejomar Alexis Dimayuga, Thomas Dy and Danna Songco Aduna solved the problems in 355 minutes.

In December, the top teams will be given financial assistance to participate in the regional contest in Singapore, where they will have the chance to compete in the ACM-ICPC World Finals in Canada in April 2008. Here prizes, scholarships, and bragging rights will be at stake for some of the world's finest university students of the computing sciences and engineering.

Rafael Saldaña from Admu chaired the board of judges. Other judges were Henry Adorna and Jaime Caro of UP Diliman, Eliezer Albacea of UP Los Baños, Caslon Chua and Nelson Marcos from DLSU Manila, and Raymond Todd Melton of Admu.

For more information, e-mail ACM-ICPC Philippines 2007 at computingsoc@gmail.com. Visit the contest website http://icpc2007manila.blogspot.com/ or Saldaña's blog http://raffysaldana.blogspot.com/.



KIDS QUIZ

By Emman Cena

Communication devices

THE ADVENT OF TECHNOLOGY HAS BRIDGED people around the world. The rise of new communication devices made our lives easier. Children whose parents are working abroad can swear how fast and easy they could reach their missed loved ones. A job applicant can easily send his resumé to employers anywhere in the world in no time.

True enough, the means of communication in the world have so much improved. This week's test would pay homage to people who made our lives easier.

Try to match the communication devices/tools on the left column with their inventors/pioneers on the right. Time to wear those thinking caps again. Good luck kiddos!

Devices/Tools/machines	Inventor/s
1. telephone	a) John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, William Shockley
2. television	b) Seymour Rubenstein & Rob Barnaby
3. radio	c) Johannes Gutenberg
4. telegraph	d) Vladimir Zworykin
5. transistor	e) Alexander Bain
6. printing press	f) Nicolas Conte
7. word processor	g) Guglielmo Marconi
8. pencil	h) Alexander Graham Bell
9. paper	i) Cai Lin
10. fax machine	j) Samuel Morse

Score: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

Answers: 1-h, 2-d, 3-g, 4-j, 5-a, 6-c, 7-b, 8-f, 9-i, 10-e

A healthy lifestyle starts with a healthy stomach

Big meals, fatty foods, sweets and alcohol during the Holidays? These can wreak havoc on your digestive system and result in constipation.

Keep your stomach healthy with C-Lium Fibre!

C-Lium Fibre is a 100% natural dietary fiber without artificial flavors and preservatives. Made from pure psyllium husk – which is possibly the best source of dietary fiber – it effectively acts as a sponge in the intestinal tract, swelling to absorb water and waste materials in the bowels. This forms a soft, bulky mass that passes through the colon more quickly and easily.

Keep your stomach healthy this holiday season. Make C-Lium Fibre your daily habit!

Ultrasound can be used to see the heart

ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY IS ONE OF THE most widely used procedures for diagnosing heart disorders because it is noninvasive, safe, relatively inexpensive, widely available, and provides excellent images of the heart.

Echocardiography is a diagnostic procedure that uses high-frequency ultrasound waves, similar to those used to take sonograms of a fetus, that are bounced off the heart to produce a moving image of this vital organ, explained Dr. Greg Rogelio, chief of the Diagnostics and Instrumentation Division of St. Luke's Heart Institute.

The ultrasound waves are emitted by a handheld probe called a transducer. The doctor places gel on the chest and moves the transducer over the area of the heart as a computer analyzes the rebounding waves to create images of the heart displayed on a monitor.

Accurate picture

By varying the placement and angle of the transducer, doctors can view the heart and nearby major blood vessels from various angles and thus get an accurate picture of heart structure and function, Rogelio said.

Dr. Marietta Crisostomo, head of the Echocardiography Department, pointed out that, the advent of 3D echocardiography technology allows a more accurate, fast, easy and measurable assessment of the different structures of the heart that reduces the guesswork from interpreting images that are produced by other technologies.

Both Rogelio and Crisostomo have trained under Dr. Natesa Pandian in the Cardiovascular Imaging and Hemodynamic Laboratory of Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts to further their expertise in 3D echocardiography.

High-definition imaging

St. Luke's Medical Center is the only hospital in the Philippines that performs 3D echocardiography using the Philips iE33 Echocardiography System, a new generation of cardiac ultrasound equipment that uses high-definition imaging that allows physicians to diagnose heart disease and provides data analysis tools that help doctors make treatment decisions and monitor their success.

With the growing number of patients with congestive heart failure, congenital and valvular heart diseases, cutting-edge diagnostic tools such as 3D echocardiography play an increasingly significant role in helping cardiologists arrive at fast and accurate diagnoses. For details, log on to www.stluke.com.ph. To schedule an appointment, call 723-0101 ext. 4703 or 5405.

Postgrad course

St. Luke's Heart Institute will also be holding an Echocardiography postgraduate course on Dec. 7 and 8 at the 2/F Conference Room, St. Luke's Medical Center.

Topics will cover basic principles of echocardiography, valvular heart disease, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy, congenital heart disease, and pericardial disease, cardiac tumors and diseases of the great vessels.

For details about the postgraduate course, call 723-0101/0301 ext. 5402.

World Diabetes Day focuses on children

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, the incidence of diabetes, whether type 1 or type 2, is on the rise, and consequently so is diabetes among children.

This is why, as the United Nations observes World Diabetes Day on Wednesday, children as well as adolescents become a primary target of this worldwide campaign that primarily seeks to increase awareness among the populace.

This is the first time the UN has acknowledged a noninfectious disease poses as serious a threat to world health much like what the world body has done with regard to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome, tuberculosis and malaria.

Much-ignored

"Diabetes is a much-ignored but deadly disease, responsible for around 3 percent of deaths every year here in the Philippines alone (9th leading cause of death). If we don't do anything about diabetes now, the number will increase to 8 million—children and adolescents included—within 20 years," warned Dr. Josephine Carlos-Raboca, president of Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, one of the event's major partners here in the country.

She said the World Diabetes Day campaign this year will set out to challenge several problems that today's children and adolescents with diabetes face and firmly establish the message that "no child should die of diabetes."

"Primarily what we want to tell the public is that diabetes can strike at any age and sadly, the condition is often diagnosed late or is misdiagnosed completely," Raboca lamented.

Inaccessible

PSEM director Dr. Gabriel Jasul Jr. added that insulin, the main life-saving medication that children with diabetes need to survive, in a number of cases, remains inaccessible because of its cost, failure to take the medicine as prescribed, the child lives far away or is located in an area where supply of the insulin is limited or absent.

"Children belonging to low-income families are the most affected. Through a series of campaigns that we have prepared this year and in 2008, we hope to send the World Diabetes Day's message across to more Filipinos," Jasul said.

PSEM also partnered with Sanofi-Aventis Philippines, which markets the only insulin of its type in the world.

Lantus is used to treat adults and children (age 6 and older) with type 1 diabetes or adult patients with type 2 diabetes who require long-acting insulin to control high blood sugar.

Unlike other types of insulin, the once-a-day Lantus works by steadily releasing insulin over a 24-hour period, very like the way the body releases its own insulin in response to changes in blood sugar.

Early diagnosis, crucial

However, the doctors reminded that no matter how effective a medication may be, early diagnosis is very crucial for children and adolescents, both with type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

RABOCA

"Doctors, teachers, parents and guardians of these children and adolescents must join forces to help children living with diabetes prevent the condition in those at risk, and avoid unnecessary death and disability," explained Dr. Allyn Sy, PSEM past president.

The doctor reported that based on the most recent (2003) data from the International Diabetes Federation-Western Pacific Region Childhood and Adolescent Diabcare Project, Filipino children and adolescents have registered higher than average in the body mass index, being under the overweight and obese category.

PSEM VP Dr. Laura Trajano-Acampado attributed childhood obesity to several environmental factors—decreased physical activity due to more time devoted to watching television, playing video games, or getting hooked to computers, eating more fatty foods and consuming soft drinks.

"Remember that childhood obesity could eventually lead to prediabetes, or a condition in which the blood sugar level is higher than normal, but not high enough to be classified as type 2 diabetes. But this does not mean prediabetes shouldn't be taken lightly. It means that the child is at risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke," Acampado reminded.

Ride a bike to prevent diabetes

THE SAYING "IT'S JUST LIKE RIDING A BIKE" TOOK ON NEW meaning as organizers of this year's World Diabetes Day decided to hold a nationwide bike event called The Go Bike Pilipinas!

"The event will simultaneously happen in three key areas—Metro Manila (starting at the One Esplanade, Mall of Asia in Pasay City) and in the cities of Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro," said Dr. Josephine Carlos-Raboca, president of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, which organized the event.

The Go Bike Pilipinas was supported by the United Cyclists Association of the Philippines as well as other cycling groups, Metro Manila Development Authority, sanofi-aventis Philippines and Accel Sports.

"The 6 a.m to 11 a.m. bike ride seeks to raise diabetes awareness. As we all know, exercise improves one's overall level of fitness and can help manage one's blood sugar (glucose) and weight, and also improve cardiovascular health," Raboca explained.

She added that cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among those with diabetes.

"In addition to improving one's overall fitness and conditioning, exercise can help counteract the risk of developing cardiovascular disease by improving the flow of blood through small blood vessels and increasing your heart's pumping efficiency," she reminded. *Charles E. Buban*

Bionic ear gives hope to people with severe hearing impairment

CAREPLUS

Christine F. Liwanag

HEARING AIDS ARE A blessing for many people with hearing impairment. For people with profound and more serious hearing impairment, however, hearing aids may not be enough.

Hearing aids work only for hearing-impaired people who still have residual hearing, explains Dr. Norberto Martinez, section chief of St. Luke's Hearing and Balance Disorders Laboratory. Acting as a miniature amplifier system, a hearing aid receives acoustic signals and intensifies them, thereby allowing the wearer to hear better.

However, the improvements a hearing aid can provide are severely limited when there is extensive damage to the cochlea. The cochlea is a spiral tube that forms part of the inner ear—the essential organ of hearing—and is filled with tiny hair cells that help transmit sound into the brain.

Best option

"For children and adults with severe to profound hearing impairment, a cochlear implant may be the best option," Dr. Martinez says.

A cochlear implant is a surgically implanted electronic device that provides a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly deaf or severely hard of hearing. It is often referred to as a bionic ear, the first and only medical device that can replace a human sense. Unlike hearing aids that work by amplifying sound, the cochlear implant generates electrical impulses to directly stimulate any functioning auditory nerves inside the cochlea. The brain interprets the electrical impulses as sound.

DR. MARTINEZ
recepient of achievement award for performing the country's first cochlear implantation surgery.

"Because it doesn't rely on residual hearing but instead replaces the function of hair cells, the cochlear implant allows the patient to hear most speech sounds clearly," Dr. Martinez explains.

Cochlear implants are approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for adults and children 12 months of age and beyond. Ten years ago, the country's first cochlear implantation procedure was successfully performed at St. Luke's Medical Center. In the Philippines, the youngest recipient of a cochlear implant is an 11-month-old baby girl.

Audiologic tests

Before undergoing the implantation procedure, a patient first goes through a battery of audiologic tests. Once the patient's hearing condition has been evaluated, he or she undergoes either Computerized Topography Scan (CT Scan) or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to check for any anatomic abnormality of the ear, which may require a different surgical technique. Psychological and neuro-development assessment may be requested for children with additional needs.

According to Dr. Martinez, cochlear implants are proven effective in postlingually deaf adults (those born with normal hearing and became deaf after acquiring spoken language), congenitally deaf (deaf at birth) and prelingually deaf children (those born deaf or became deaf before or around acquiring spoken language) up to the age of 6.

Early implantation provides exposure to sounds that can be helpful during the critical period when children learn speech and language skills, Dr. Martinez notes. "Performance, hearing, speech development, and near-normal language acquisition may be enhanced if children receive a cochlear implant before the age of 4."

Coupled with intensive post-implantation therapy, cochlear implants can help young children acquire speech, language, and social skills. Children and adults who were implanted later in life learn to associate the signal provided by an implant with sounds they remember. This often provides recipients with the ability to understand speech solely by listening through the device, without requiring any visual cues such as those provided by lip-reading or sign language.

Gradual process

Getting the full benefits of the implant is a gradual process that may take several weeks; this involves programming sessions as the implant recipient begins to pick up sounds with the device. During the programming process, the recipient attends speech and language therapy sessions to help identify and interpret the new sounds he or she is hearing. Therapy will help a child develop and understand spoken language by detecting, imitating and associating meanings of sounds. These sessions last at least a year, along with parent education and training programs.

"In many cases, therapy has helped children with cochlear implants develop speech and language skills at par with their peers and enabled them to attend mainstream schools," Dr. Martinez says.

To provide continuing medical education to pediatricians and otorhinolaryngologists, St. Luke's Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Department of Pediatrics will hold a joint symposium, "A Decade of Cochlear Implantation: Looking Back, Moving Forward," on Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the 2nd Floor Conference Room of St. Luke's Medical Center.

The public is invited to a lay forum on hearing restoration on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Auditorium 1, Cathedral Heights Building Complex, St. Luke's Medical Center. Noted pediatricians and otorhinolaryngologists will share their expertise on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hearing impairment in both adults and children. Registration is free.

* * *

For feedback, please e-mail the Healthcare Technology and Outcomes Information Bureau at inquire@htoib.com.

QRIO and the children

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

ROBOTS ARE SUPPOSED TO MAKE HUman life easier, if you believe the claims of couples who say self-propelled vacuums like the Roomba saved their marriages. But the trust that comes with using a disc-shaped cleaning machine is vastly different from having a robot housekeeper like The Jetsons' Rosie from the cartoons of the 1960s and is hampered by the absence of social interaction.

Part of the problem is the alien appearance. Rosie had an apron, but was still gray metal and moved around on a wheel. Today's humanoid robots like the Sony QRIO and Honda Asimo may be able to mimic human movements, but don't have recognizable faces. And those features do matter; consider how you feel after you see the back of a cheerful new VW bug or the flirty rear of a Hyundai Elantra compared to staring at the end of a jeepney.

Another problem is time. Previous data from a meeting hosted by the US National Science Foundation three years ago suggested that even the most captivating robots can't hold a human's interest for more than 10 hours.

2 obstacles

Still, a new study suggests those two obstacles can be overcome and that humans can treat robots like social peers. Fumihide Tanaka and Javier Movellan from the UCSD Machine Perception Laboratory teamed with Sony to introduce the QRIO to children aged 2 or younger.

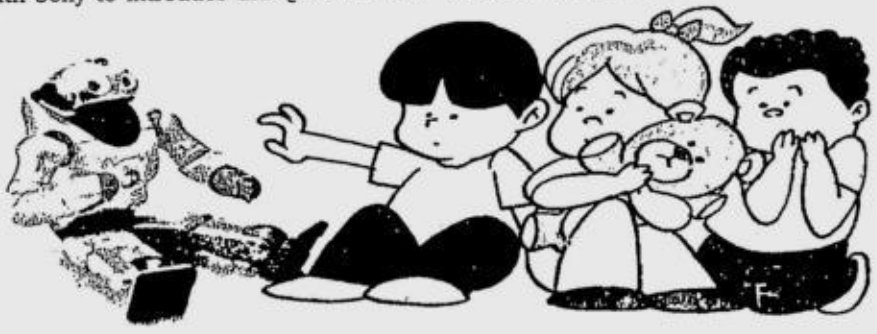
"Children of this age were chosen because they have no preconceived notions of robots," wrote Tanaka et al. in their paper. "And they helped us focus on primal forms of social interaction that are less dependent on speech."

The findings appear online in this week's Early Edition section of the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

QRIO

If you haven't seen QRIO before, you can find videos of the two-foot high robot (break)dancing with others of its kind and even occasionally with a couple of humans. Introduced in 2003, QRIO came on the heels of Aibo, the robot dog that was briefly the most popular pet in Japan, and Honda's four-foot high, stair-climbing, soccer-playing robot Asimo.

With help from Tanaka as human operator, QRIO played with the toddlers during several classroom sessions for five months in 2005. At first the children seemed hesitant around the slightly smaller mobile figure who just didn't look like them. It didn't help that the robot seemed to pay no attention to them either until the researchers programmed QRIO to giggle whenever its head was patted. By responding to their behavior, the children renewed their interest in the very expensive toy.



Gauge of success

The ultimate gauge of success for this experiment however, was how often the children touched QRIO. When the robot was first introduced, the researchers also placed a stuffed teddy bear and an inanimate doll resembling QRIO but called Robby in the room. At first the children would only hug the stuffed toy, but as time went on, they started hugging first Robby (it was lighter than the other robot) and then QRIO more often until finally, as the researchers said, "the most huggable toy, the teddy bear, was never hugged."

Perhaps the most striking demonstration of how much the children had come to accept the robot occurred whenever QRIO's batteries ran down at the end of each session. Programmed to lie down and assume a sleeping pose, the children, once they got over QRIO's strangeness, would cover it with a blanket and even wish it a good night.

So what changed? Tanaka et al. say the human operator overseeing QRIO's behavior isn't the true cause of success. While teachers told students to handle the pricey playmate with care, and the robot could interact with the children, it was the sense of being physically connected by touch that seems to have made the difference.

Tanaka et al. are now developing autonomous robots that can interact longer with the children. This might well be the start to establishing good robot-human relations at the right generational level.

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Beware of the early morning blood pressure surge

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

HYPERTENSIVE PATIENTS FREQUENTly ask their doctors when is the best time to take their antihypertensive medications. And my frequent answer to those who ask me is that it should be ideally taken early in the morning upon waking up anytime after 4 a.m., definitely before breakfast, even on an empty stomach. I encourage them to do so even if they just wake up to go to the bathroom and go back to sleep again.

The usual time many hypertensive patients take their blood pressure pills is after breakfast and even my colleagues try to convince me that this is the most practical time to take one's medicines. But I am not convinced. For me,this might be a little too late already and may expose them to an avoidable risk.What even makes it worse is when one exercises upon waking up—a healthy thing to do but not before one has taken one's BP-controlling pills.

Circadian rhythm

Blood pressure and heart rate follow a very consistent pattern medical scientists label as the circadian pattern. The circadian rhythm is a 24-hour cycle that affects our sleep/wake patterns and our body's normal processes.

Hormones such as adrenaline and noradrenaline are released in the morning, which jumpstart us with a boost of energy. However, this also causes a sudden surge of the blood pressure, which to hypertensive patients may be a bit scary if uncontrolled. This phenomenon is usually seen between 5 a.m. and later in the morning.

This is the reason many cases of strokes, heart attacks and even sudden death occur early in the morning, especially during the first four hours after waking up.

If one waits for breakfast, say at 7 or 8 a.m. before one takes his BP pills, then he is unduly exposing himself for several hours every morning to the risk of falling victims to this early morning surge of the blood pressure.

To neutralize this early morning surge of the BP, some take their antihypertensive pills at bedtime, which at first blush seems to be a logical thing to do. However, the circadian pattern is such that our BP drops to low levels when we sleep from midnight to early morning hours when it surges.

Taking one's medication at bedtime may unduly bring down the BP to precariously low levels which can also expose one to some cardiovascular risk. Several studies including a few in older Japanese patients suggest that excessive reduction of the BP during sleep may result in a higher incidence of stroke.

The circadian variation in the BP is a big challenge to physicians and also to the pharmaceutical industry. Antihypertensive medications must ideally attenuate the steep increases in BP and HR in the early morning period but not excessively decrease BP during sleep. When a doctor decides on which antihypertensive drug to prescribe, this is one factor he should consider.

Check their BP

Even in patients with seemingly well-controlled blood pressure when they check it later during the day, half of them still have high morning blood pressure. It is important that hypertensive patients check their BP also about half an hour upon waking up.

With so many available digital BP devices in the market, this should not be a difficult thing to do. One must make sure though that he gets BP devices which are validated by reputable medical organizations.

So for hypertensive patients, make sure you don't fall victim to the early morning BP surge. Antihypertensive pills must also be taken early enough. Making that small bit of an effort to remember taking one's pills immediately upon waking up anytime after 4 a.m. may go a long way in keeping one away from a stroke, heart attack or sudden death.

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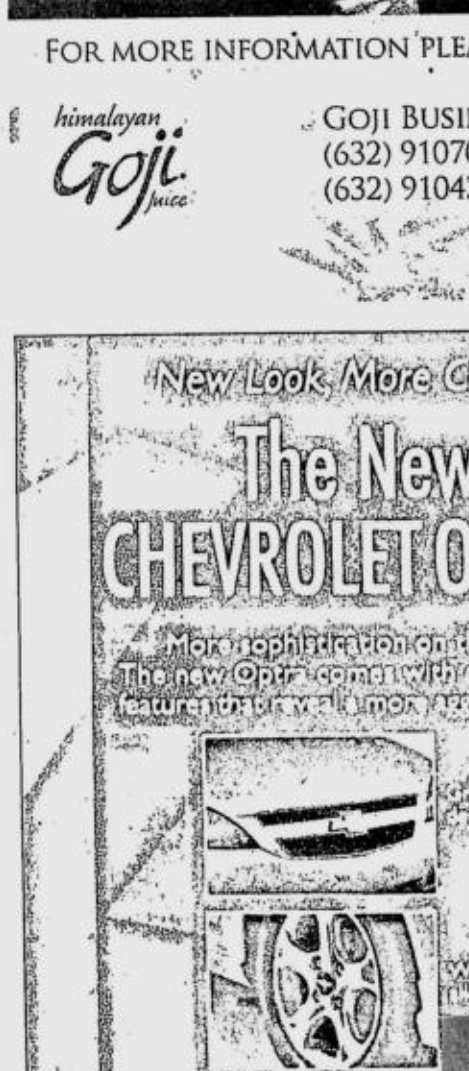

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BUSINESS

PCCI renews call for Jpepa approval

Industry says treaty beneficial to RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and Industry yesterday renewed calls for the ratification of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) as the Senate is set to complete hearings next month.

In a briefing at the PCCI offices in Makati City, PCCI president Donald G. Dee maintained that industries were anticipating the benefits from the Jpepa.

However, Dee said PCCI was also aware of "fears" about the treaty among other sectors.

"It would be more productive to engage in consultations with industry leaders and representatives to move forward an action agenda that addresses the competitiveness of businesses as well as cope up with needed safety nets to allay these fears," he said.

Dee said the Jpepa must be made to work with the overall growth strategy of the Philippines since, without the agreement, the country was generally behind its neighbors.

"It is too risky to gamble considering that the cost of (not ratifying the treaty) and the cost of trade and investment diversification are quite high for the country," he said.

Further, Dee said the Jpepa would not be the last EPA that the Philippines would negotiate considering the pressures within the region and the world toward integration and globalization.

"This shows the need for our country to take a more proactive and developmental approach in realizing the best and coherent strategies to make the EPAs work to our advantage," he said.

Citing data from PCCI-backed think tank Universal Access to Competitiveness and Trade (U-Act), Dee said the Jpepa would translate to increased exports of between $988.61 million and $1.4 billion for the four sectors of automotive, semiconductor, furniture and garments.

As for job creation, U-Act predicts a yearly growth rate of 20 percent, representing the industries' need for some 100,000 to 150,000 additional workers.

"But these figures only took into account the static effects of the possible impact of Jpepa," Dee said. "The numbers are assumed to be much larger and more robust if the dynamic effects were included."

Last Monday, Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said he remained confident that the Senate would ratify the Jpepa as its economic benefits have been "well amplified and clarified" and that the remaining challenge was on constitutional issues.

"We have prepared our memoranda and forwarded these to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago," he said. "We have also sought advice from legal luminaries, you might have read some articles in the media from Fr. Joaquin Bernas, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and even economist Solita Monsod."

The Jpepa came under fire last month when legal experts such as former Supreme Court Associate Justice Florentino Feliciano gave out statements that the agreement violated constitutional safeguards on national patrimony because it gave the Japanese the right to exploit the country's marine resources.

A number of nongovernment organizations, on the other hand, feared that it would lead to the dumping of toxic waste in the country.

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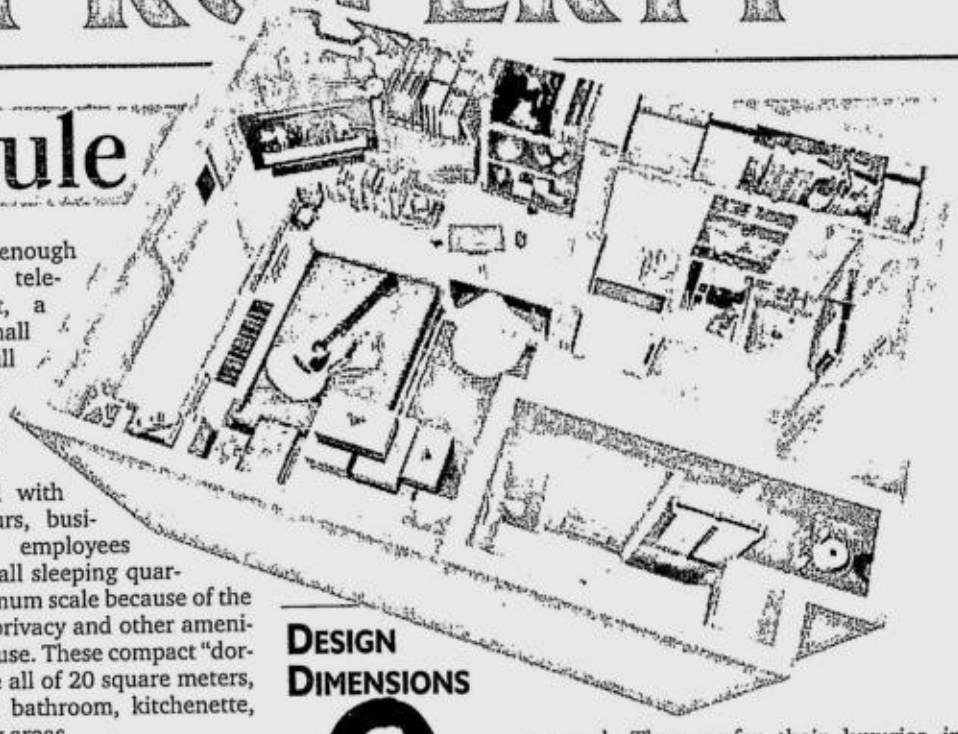
PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Living in a capsule



COMPACT LIVING. A 20-square-meter studio apartment with all the living amenities.

AS URBAN SPACES GET scarcer and more expensive, they are driven by the residential and commercial markets to be more like space shuttles—compact and yet, fully functional.

Scaled-down to affordable sizes, these spaces where everything is practically within reach sacrifice scale in favor of privacy and the ample provision of other amenities and conveniences. Who cares if you live like an astronaut in a capsule for as long as you have everything you need?

Habitable living capsules

Smaller spaces address the need for privacy over shared or communal spaces. Crowded cities like Tokyo and Hong Kong have worked with this concept for decades now. Because their urban centers have become very dense, their living spaces have been refashioned into habitable living capsules.

Condominium developers have consistently rehashed their units into various sizes and layouts to find the most cost-efficient yet user-friendly configurations.

At the extreme, submarine-like sleeping quarters—with built-in power outlets, telephone outlets, ipod docks and a night lamp—are leased-out like hotel rooms. The capsules just for sleeping even have their individually controlled air-conditioning and ventilating system and hatch-like door.

Shrunk floor areas

In our own Metro Manila, the floor areas of residential developments have shrunk too. So have those in commercial, institutional and corporate spaces. In call centers, workspaces are reduced to the minimum dimensions—just enough to accommodate telephone equipment, a computer and a small worktop. Call agents' living accommodations are as compact as their desks.

Having to deal with odd working hours, business outsource employees choose to rent small sleeping quarters within a minimum scale because of the high demand for privacy and other amenities for individual use. These compact "dormitelle" rooms are all of 20 square meters, and come with a bathroom, kitchenette, closet and sleeping areas.

Having lived for five days in a compact yet fully equipped sailboat, I know these spaces work. Our 35-sq-m quarters had two bedrooms, a bathroom, a fully equipped kitchenette, living and dining areas. We bathed, cooked, ate, slept and lounged around in that space for almost a week.

Affordable packages

Aircraft have gone the same direction. The latest first-class seats are worlds on their own: capsules with movable "hatches" and all the amenities within. Unlike the traditional first-class seats where other passengers are visible as they sleep, read and move about, these new seats provide maximum privacy within their own remote-controlled hatches. These are what the best sleeping provisions in mid-air are today.

It seems that people don't mind being cramped. They prefer their luxuries in smaller and affordable packages. On the part of the developer or provider, the concept works. Less area and smaller space mean a smaller fit-out expense.

"Everything within an arm's length" may be a bit of an exaggeration, but it's a distance we will not have to reach too far into the future to get to.

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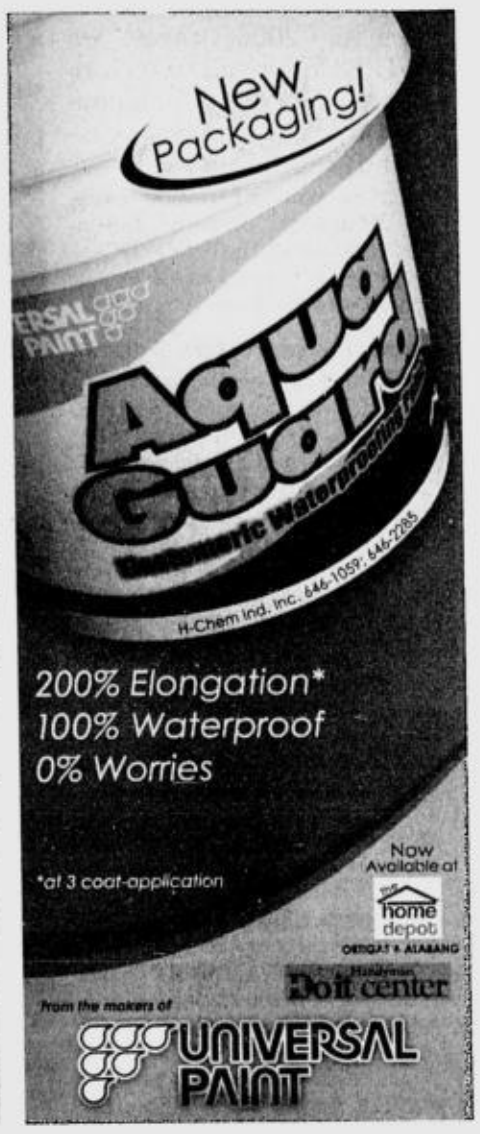

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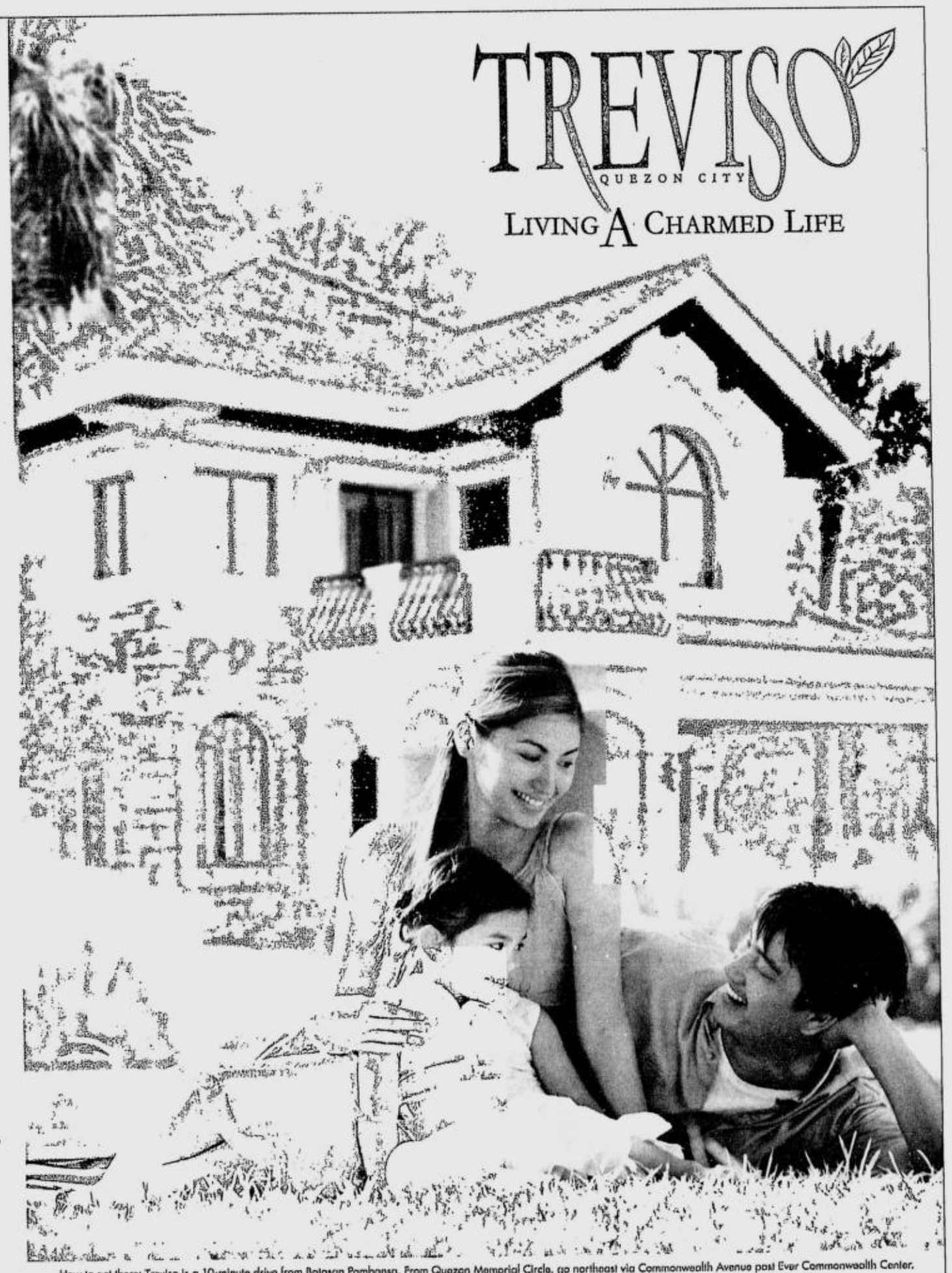

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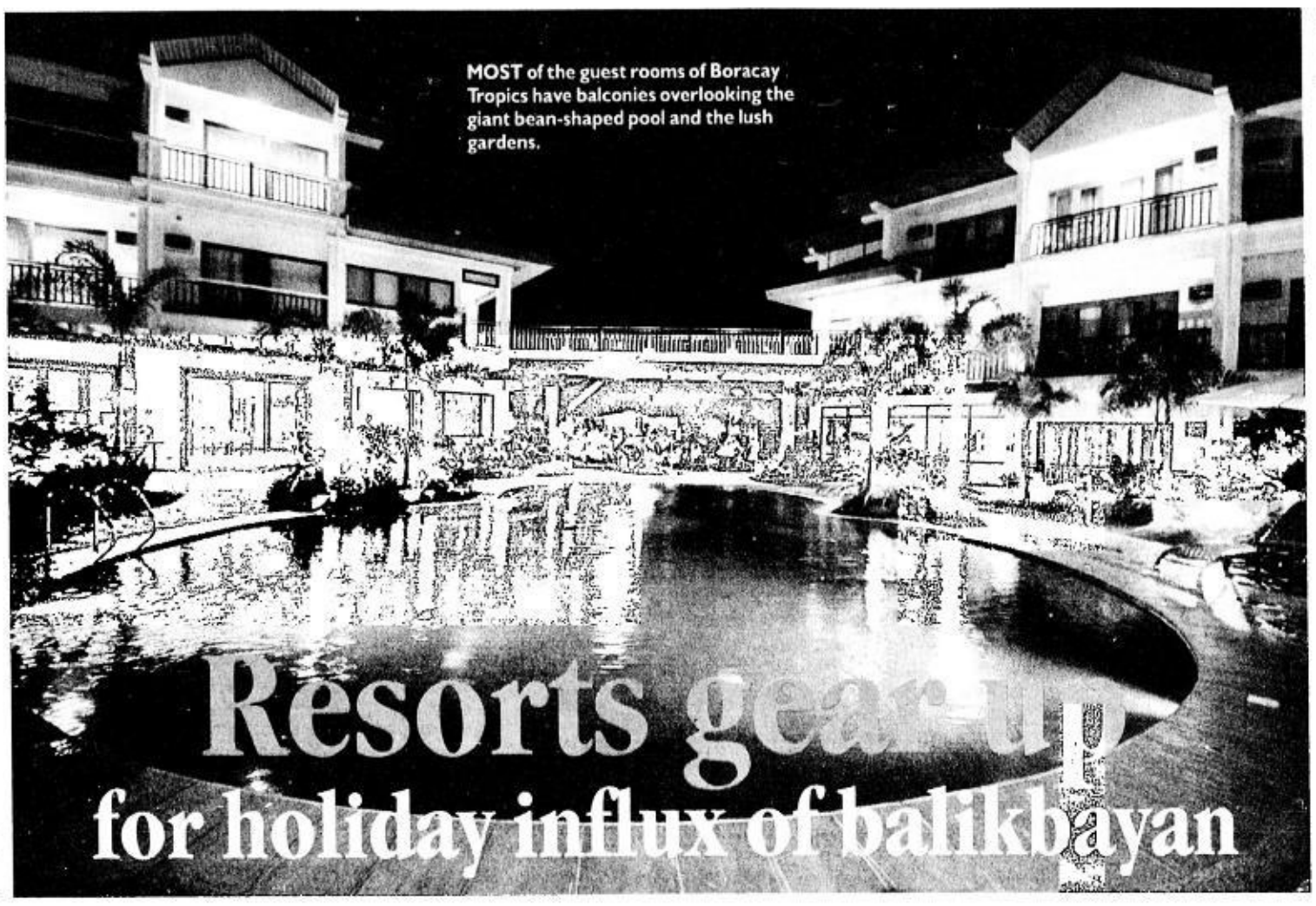
Resorts gear up for holiday influx of balikbayan

By Tessa R. Salazar



MOST of the guest rooms of Boracay Tropics have balconies overlooking the giant bean-shaped pool and the lush gardens.

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism figures showed that in December 2006, 295,435 arrivals were foreigners and Philippine passport holders permanently residing abroad (excluding overseas Filipino workers). In December 2005, there are 281,836 arrivals who are foreigners and Philippine passport holders permanently residing abroad.

Is the resort industry, therefore, on the upswing for tourists and balikbayan during the holidays?

INQUIRER Property asked several resorts in the country.

How the resorts fare

The 7.7-hectare Golden Sunset resort, Barangay Uno Calatagan, Batangas, is 70 percent fully booked for the Christmas season, compared to its 20 percent occupancy rate during the rainy season and the 60 percent take-up during weekends. Last summer, however, the resort was booked 100 percent. Twenty-five percent of the resort visitors in 2006 were balikbayans.

The 3.3-hectare Boracay Tropics Resort Hotel, located at Station 2 in the island of Boracay, considers the Christmas season toward the New Year as "the peak-of-the-peak season" for Boracay. It has a balance of 30 percent various foreign nationals, 30 percent balikbayans, and 40 percent local tourists.

It boasts of a tropical oasis blending Mediterranean and Asian architecture and interiors on a sprawling estate of verdant landscape. It has Philippine Department of Tourism's AAA rating according to Annie Convocar, Boracay Tropics Resort Hotel's marketing consultant.

Full occupancies are expected for the Christmas season and the summer season particularly the weeks before and after the Easter holidays.

The 2-year-old Thunderbird Resort, perched in a highland valley of the southern slopes of the Sierra Madre mountain range and located at Binangonan, Rizal, doesn't have exact figures yet on the number of balikbayans that frequent the resort every December.

According to Cheryl Arnold, the resort's marketing director, in December 2006, more balikbayans could be seen in the resort's casino and restaurants during the day, whether or not they were at the hotel.

The property, with 3 hectares under development, overlooks Laguna de Bahia, the largest lake in the Philippines. Thunderbi Eastridge Golf Cours highlands club with lak views to which the r has players' rights for g

The resort has a the casino, a 43-room lux infinity pool and pool gas Café, and the Me cuisine restaurant La will open its second r Point in San Fernando, 2008.

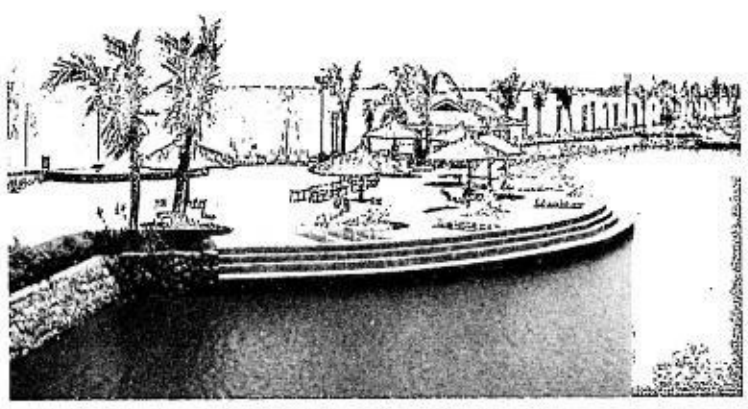
Thunderbird Resort ation property develo erations in six count Rico, Peru, Panama, Guatemala, Costa Ric pines. The Philippines pany's first market in serves as its platform development.

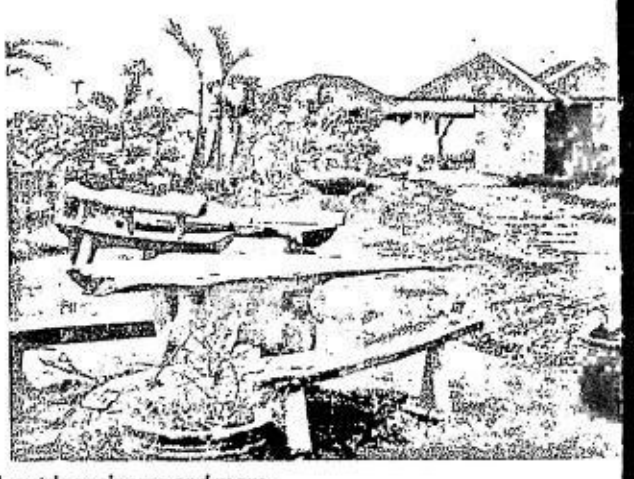
Preparations

Thunderbird Resort "Concert in the Sky" fi play in December, a N ty at the poolside, an dered view" of Lagu Manila's skyline lit u Year fireworks.

Arnold said that T Resorts will also of "countdown party wit ers and free-flowing w

Boracay Tropics, a Convocar, will set up and puto bumbong house guests—the tra





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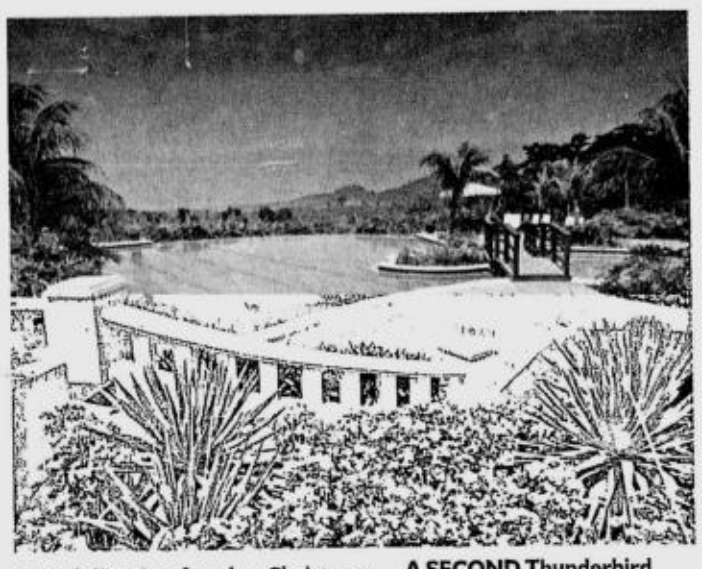

A SECOND Thunderbird resort is set to rise at Poro Point in San Fernando, La Union in December.

tive delicacies for the Christmas season. It will be decorated with Christmas colors to liven up the special dinner parties lined up during the season with sumptuous buffets and typical Philippine dances and music provided by the staff and guest entertainers.

Golden Sunset will have Christmas carol school competition, lantern parades, New Year fireworks display and other Christmas traditions.

Specs

Thunderbird Resorts has five swimming pools, three restaurants, and two coffee shops. It has been the chosen place of stay for candidates of Ms Earth and Ms Philippines.

"Compared to driving to Tagaytay or Subic which is three hours away, Thunderbird in Binangonan is a mere 30-minute drive from downtown Ortigas Center going the opposite direction of rush hour traffic," Arnold said.

On the other hand, Golden Sunset Resort in Calatagan, Batangas has five swimming pools, two jacuzzis, a spa, two karaoke rooms, fishing and boating amenities, one private home with its own pool and gazebo as well as function rooms for corporate seminars, ballroom and function room (350-person capacity). It also has an outdoor museum, a butterfly farm, a playground, a bike trail, an outdoor cinema, floating barges, and facilities for billiards, beach volleyball, and team building seminars.

Boracay Tropics has two three-story buildings which enclose the exclusive and self-contained sanctuary. The resort hotel has 44 superior and deluxe rooms and six cabana suites. The premier suites include a receiving area and a kitchenette. All rooms are equipped with air-conditioning units, mini-bar, private shower with hot and cold water, cable TV and safety deposit vault.

The multipurpose TropiCafe Restaurant is situated at the ground floor. It offers oriental and western cuisine with a bar. There's a KTV room, a Health Spa and Nail Salon, children's game room, seminar facilities for small or spacious rooms for up to 150 people. It has business center and a free Wi-Fi service in most areas of the resort.

Decorating your home . . .

From page B2-4

should be balanced with more calming shades, such as cream, blues and pale hues, Binns says.

3 **Decorate for harmony.** Binns notes that choice and placement of decorations are also crucial to the atmosphere of your home and to the harmony of those who enter. She, however, suggests that small rooms should have decors with a matte finish, rather than lots of reflective surfaces, to help absorb excess energy. "The flowing shapes of ribbons and fabrics also help create a soft, gentle atmosphere."

4 **Don't overdo the Christmas tree.** Says Binns: "Too large a tree is not conducive to a relaxing, harmonious feeling." She adds that using cream and other muted colors among the brighter ornaments help soften the tree's harsh edges.

5 **Round or oval are the best shapes for dining tables.** Binns explains that the absence of sharp corners and hard edges helps energy to flow freely and gently through the room. If you have a rectangular dining table, Binns suggests to make sure your guests are not seated too close to the corners, which can cause a feeling of unease during the meal.

Binns adds some general advice: "If people feel cooped-up or claustrophobic, they will be more likely to argue. So remove unnecessary furniture, open windows to refresh the atmosphere, use water features, like small fountains or floating candles and add some relaxing music to create a calming influence."

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Decorating your home for the holidays

By Tess S. Samaniego

DECORATING one's home, especially during the Christmas holidays, may be one of the most anticipated activities for every family. And yet some find such task very stressful.

As you spruce up your home for some merry-making, it may be useful to consider not only the esthetics, but also the balance and harmony of your personal nook through the ancient art of feng shui.

Feng shui, according to Merriam-Webster, is a Chinese geomantic practice in which a structure or site is chosen or configured so as to harmonize with the spiritual forces that inhabit it.

Linda Binns, owner of Harmony Inside & Out, specializing in holistic health and feng shui consulting, offers simple tips in keeping your homes in harmony with nature.

1 **Banish clutter.** According to Binns, it's not relaxing to be surrounded by so much stuff that you don't know where to look next. "People fall into the trap of thinking that they have to put out years' worth of decorations, whether they really like them or not, and somehow make everything fit around all their regular items."

2 **Balance your color scheme.** While Christmas colors are traditionally bright reds, greens and golds, these colors

DECORATING/B2-3

A World of Difference: Designing your Z-Loft

Small, minute things make a world of difference. We've heard this time and again and everyone has found this to be tried and tested. Take for example, fashion - a simple get-up may look all glammed up once worn with the correct accessories to accent your ensemble. Small automobile accessories once set up on your car can not only accentuate its features but also improve car performance. All this would, naturally, apply as well to your home.

The Z-Loft at Number One Rockwell is an avenue for expression of this creativity, to utilize this theory of small minute things making a big difference. Number One Rockwell boasts of the 180-degree view the Z-unit affords its residents, giving you the chance to catch the sunrise and the sunset in your very own home. To add to this already remarkable facet, the unit's 19-foot-high ceiling gives the utmost space everyone desires in their home. These are features that make the unit very apt to be designed with pieces, accents, color schemes that though infinitesimal, will prove to be a substantial contribution to your home-living experience.

Through the Glass

As if living in your own villa in the sky is not enough, renowned interior designers of The Glass House (Number One Rockwell's two-bedroom Z-Loft model unit) Alice Erfe, Principal Architect of Erfe & Associates, noted for her exceptional home and commercial interior architecture design concepts like that of Hotel Intercontinental Manila, and Butch Valdez, an accomplished & western-trained Filipino interior designer based in San Gabriel, California with diverse projects as the Peninsula Hotel in Bangkok, give their expert suggestions and thoughts on designing your very own Z-Loft to perfect living conditions.

First things first - space.

We can already expect none of the cramped and boxed areas in your Z-Loft, as we dislike having that confined feeling in our own home. As human beings always on the lookout for ways to improve and get more of what we already have, we think, "I'd like to have more spaces in my home." Mr. Valdez notes the ease of designing your Z-Loft to allow the feeling of open spaces in your unit, simply with the use of glass. "Reflective finishes like mirrors, glass, lacquer and light color paints create an ethereal feel the moment you enter the room," says Valdez as he suggests installing mirror insets on the door panels of your wardrobe cabinets. The designer also remarks that introducing a glass wall in certain sections of your unit, most especially in areas overlooking the living room, can actually achieve an open space look. "It makes the area upstairs look bigger," Valdez reiterates.

Meanwhile, Ms. Alice Erfe gives the importance of the color scheme in your unit. "Neutral color schemes (i.e. beige or white painted walls and window treatments) expand and create the illusion of a larger space," says Erfe.

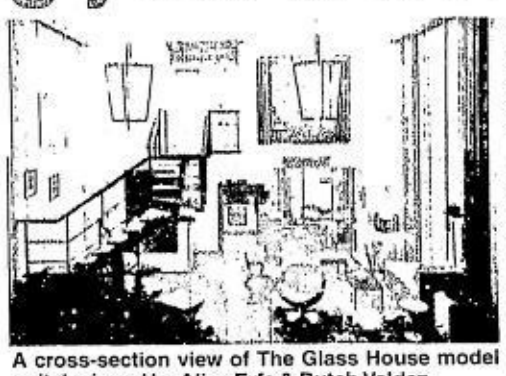
Double-purpose drapes

The view from the Z-Loft is expected to be most fantastic as cinematic. To enjoy the breathtaking view your floor-to-ceiling glass wall presents, Alice suggests having very simple and neutral window treatments such as roll-up blinds or full drapes to maximize full views, which simultaneously increases the feel of space. Butch suggests similarly - "Avoid patterned drapery fabrics that are fully operable." Fixed drapery side panels are able to frame the views and expose the two-storey-high window panels for views to be emphasized. A "Museum Shade", or a 50% sun screen material in rollers, may also be used when needed. This material's transparency does not completely block off the views, while concurrently allowing you to roll this down once needed. Making use of these materials and designs can already emphasize the impressive height of the Z-Loft.

Heightened sensibilities

While drapes have been proven to be double-purposed in the interior design of the unit, it is equally important to consider lighting in drawing attention to your unit's height. Ms. Erfe stresses how large droplights, cove lighting and accent ahalogen pinlights will do well to highlight the Z-Loft's ceiling. On the other hand, Mr. Valdez warns against using exposed fluorescent lighting. "Indirect lighting with recessed low voltage lights are the best. Add to that decorative light fixtures like hanging lamps and floor lamps on dimmers, and your room will glow with a very pleasant and romantic effect on the overall atmosphere," says Valdez.

Erfe also mentions the staircase leading up to the bed and bath at the second floor as essential. "Staircases are an attractive sculptural accent that further emphasizes the ceiling height," says Erfe. Having a spiral staircase that has spaces in between steps would, then, aid in this objective.



A cross-section view of The Glass House model unit designed by Alice Erfe & Butch Valdez

Form & Function

A house can't be a home without its accents - furniture, decorations and the like. These accents complement your overall design, and with this, Ms. Erfe intimates hanging paintings on the wall or having artifacts on the table as these add flair and make interiors personal.

While aesthetics seem to be the focus of interior design, Mr. Valdez shows us a different side of the field as he recommends finding furniture pieces that would double up as storage - "When designing your unit, incorporate clever details that can serve a purpose, (and not just) for show."

Thematic ease

Like any other artwork or even any form of communication, your unit should convey a single message, narrated by your chosen theme for design. This theme holds together the entire unit, hence found to be quite central in design.

Both interior designers agree that a contemporary design would work well for the Z-Loft. For Mr. Valdez, using classic pieces and introducing your own personal touches will make the space your own. To add to this, Ms. Erfe simultaneously suggests the use eclectic accents in furnishings and accessories. "A retro chair, a silky throw, unique pillows and such can add style to an otherwise ordinary arrangement," says she.

Diminutive and causal

Imagine having artistic license all on your own through designing your unit with these diminutive and seemingly-unimportant details. The thought of being able to feel the great big difference in your home living experience in your Z-Loft at Number One Rockwell has heightened your excitement in moving to your new unit, and will all these suggestions, you can never go wrong.

Find artistic inspiration as you visit The Glass House model unit by the Power Plant Mall.

Need to find yourself?

Find all the space you need at Number One Rockwell. Get your very own Z-loft, Loft or Flat before units run out.

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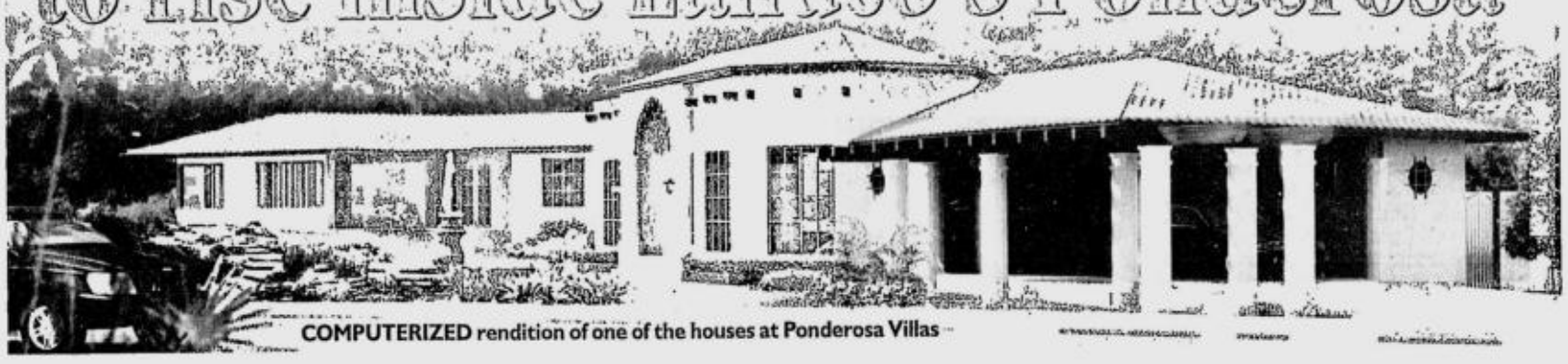
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Sun kissed villas to rise inside Landco's Ponderosa



COMPUTERIZED rendition of one of the houses at Ponderosa Villas

By Charles E. Buban

THERE'S SOME TRUTH IN the notion that the Tagaytay-Silang area in Cavite tends to appeal to discerning types of homebuyers who are more interested in enjoying life's rewards.

This is not surprising. After all, the area has some of the best weather in this side of Luzon (thanks to its elevation and rolling hill topography). The fact that it is also very near Metro Manila makes it a favorite site of homebuyers looking for a weekend retreat or second home.

No wonder when Landco Pacific developed Ponderosa Leisure Farms—a unique flower garden residential community—in

SUN/B3-3

Bedroom makeover for multitasker

ENTREPRENEUR GINO DALAO, 26, HAS diverse interests. When not working in the fields of media events and advertising, he helps out in the family business. He plays the drums and is also very much into deejaying/spinning and the visual arts. He also helps not only his dad with drip irrigation farming but also his mom, a proponent of jazz in the country, organize music festivals and jazz events.

After hours of multitasking, all Gino wants to do is kick up his shoes by hanging out in his room, having a DVD watch-a-thon or surfing the Net. Unfortunately, his bedroom did not allow him to do just that. "It was crammed and cluttered with junk," Gino confessed.

That was why he wrote Real Living Magazine, design maven Marilen Faustino and had Handyman Do it Best Home Center (Handyman) help assist him create a tranquil retreat.

A snazzy look

Brightening up the dull and dreary space was one tough task but de-cluttering the chaotic bedroom was another. First, Gino gave unused bits and pieces to charity. Then Handyman brought in shoe organizers, racks and storage boxes.

The cool storage pieces, a new and decorative ceiling light and electrical bulb and contemporary accents from Handyman gave the room a snazzy look perfect for a sophisticated young professional. Furthermore, the store gave Gino some cabinet handles and hinges plus stylish shelves for his large DVD, CD and book collection and bracket.

Instead of curtains, neutral-colored roman blinds covered his windows. The worn-out wallpaper was replaced with pale ash brown paint from Handyman.

Automated paint centers

For home decorating paint ideas, specialty finishes, techniques and applicators for unique looks, textures and effects, visit Handyman's fully automated paint centers which uses the exclusive brand Do it Best Quality Paints, known for excellent color retention and superior painting application.

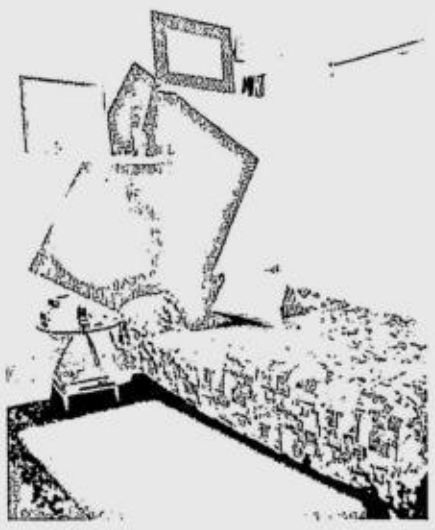
It also boasts of the photo spectrometer eye that scans and produces the exact colors that customers want. Do it Best Quality Paints also guarantee smoother, lump-free painting which is less likely to blister, flake or peel.

The Victorian vine headboard was replaced by a simple Zen-like red piece of wood and above it are pieces of wood cum shelves that held paintings, vases, frames and other knick-knacks.

Work corner

A work corner was reserved to keep creative and productive concepts coming. A folding table from Handyman now houses his laptop, books and other advertising paraphernalia while a bedside desk lamp provides task lighting.

Gino's bedroom was transformed into a multiuse space where he can relax and catch up on the sleep he needs.



AFTER THE MAKEOVER. The Zen-like red piece of wood, the pale, ash brown painted walls—a dramatic play of hues and tinges from Handyman's fully-automated Paint centers which uses the exclusive brand Do It Best Quality Paints—gave Gino Dalao a tranquill retreat.

Traditional meets modern at Pramana

DESPITE THE POPULARITY OF ultramodern looks for homes that feature the use of such materials as steel and glass, many designers still come back to the old standards—design philosophies that have stood the test of time.

The Asian influence, for example, has always been strong among architects and designers who frequently use this philosophy's "less is more" motto in their works. Because both Modern and Asian architectures focus on elegant simplicity and the allowing of the materials' natural beauty to shine through, it is no surprise that the blending of these styles produce stunning results.

The use of Modern Asian architecture has never been more appropriate than in Pramana, Greenfield Development Corp.'s prime development south of Manila.

THE HOUSES in Pramana like this one have 150 to 180 square meters of liveable space.

LIVING room

Strategic location

Envisioned to be a residential park within the burgeoning Greenfield City, and with a strategic location that puts it right in the middle of the bustling south metro and scenic Tagaytay, Pramana offers suburban tranquility with urban modernity.

It is also highly accessible, with Makati and Alabang just a short, leisurely ride away since the development is directly connected to three major road networks: Mamplasan, Sta. Rosa and the ABI-Greenfield Interchange.

Thanks to its location in Sta. Rosa, Laguna and with half of the 23-hectare project dedicated to wide open spaces, ponds and meditation gardens, Pramana is able to provide scenic views. The overall design of the project takes full advantage of the area's natural beauty, with lush landscapes and greenery complemented by tree-lined roads, gardens, pocket parks and gazebos.

Given such stunning views, it's only natural that residents would want to bring the beauty of the outdoors in, and this is what they achieve with Modern Asian architecture. Traditional Asian design concepts blend seamlessly with functional modern elements to create a look that highlights the beauty of nature. Thanks to sleek details that make use of various elements like wood and glass, the homes achieve a simple yet subtly elegant look.

Houses

The houses in Pramana have 150 to 180 square meters of liveable space, each with three bedrooms, two toilets and bath, a powder room, a two-car garage and maid quarters. The maid's room has its own toilet adjacent to an outdoor wash area, and the kitchen is complete with sink and cabinets.

The living room and dining room allow natural light to come in with its unusually large windows, making one feel the warmth of the outdoors in their home.

Amenities

Outside, residents will enjoy various options for rest and relaxation. The clubhouse is equipped with a basketball court, swimming pool, playground and other amenities perfect for recreational activities with family and friends.

To ensure that the beauty and tranquility of Pramana are safeguarded, topnotch security measures are undertaken. The gated, fully landscaped community has 24-hour security, 10-meter wide roads and other modern infrastructure for safety and convenience.

With homes that promote peace and serenity, surrounded by scenic views, truly Pramana provides a haven where one can commune with nature.

The beautiful Italian architecture of McKinley Hill Tuscany Private Estate

TUSCANY IS A MARVELOUS ITALIAN REgion that continues to grow in stature. And a similarly named project is set to duplicate that feat right here in the Philippines.

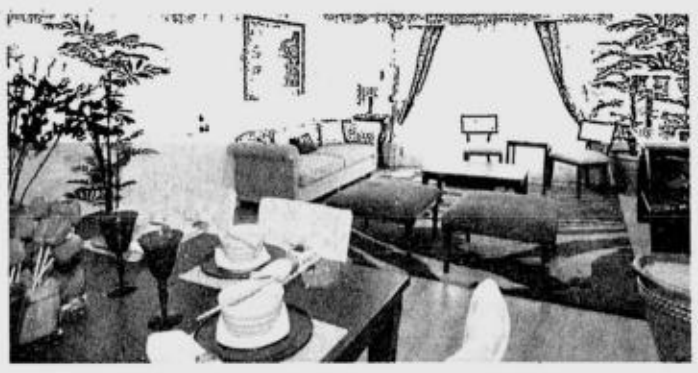
Inspired by everything that made its namesake famous, McKinley Hill Tuscany Private Estate dares where no development has gone before.

Residential clusters

A gated 1.5-hectare village that contains six Tuscan-Mediterranean-style residential clusters complete with classical stone details and elegant arches leading to a towering seventh cluster 17 stories higher than the rest. In between, rooflines are varied and façades painted in different festive hues provide an authentic Italian village atmosphere.

A four-level edifice that faithfully reproduces the Ponte Vecchio and serves as a bridgeway among the clusters. A clubhouse features a vintage wine cellar that's perfect for Tuscany's celebrated vintages.

As Megaworld FVP for Marketing Noli Hernandez puts it: "Calling Tuscany your home is second nature once you experience the creature comforts of the residences. Choose from a variety of units that suit your needs for space and privacy. No matter what you select, you get wide windows, balconies and the unending right to bask in nature's splendor."



THE TUSCANY dining and living room

Modern home

Beneath the charmingly rustic appearance of each unit, however, is a modern home. Solid surface countertops, built-in cabinets, and stainless-steel sinks are norms above the standard. Ceramic tiles that adorn walls and bath floors are Italian-standard. Modern exhaust ducts help maintain room temperature, while hot and cold water are available on tap.

The living and sleeping areas features laminated wooden floors. Other modern provisions include cable TV, Internet and telephone lines and individual keyed mailboxes. You've got the family, and we've got the units to match their size. Choose among the standard 1-bedroom (approx 46.2 sq m), 1-bedroom loft (64.5 sq m), 2-bedroom (92.4 sq m) and 3-bedroom units (138.4).

Adding to the peace of mind you'll experience is the assurance of safety and modernity: security 24/7, intercom with cameras, continuous service with 11 passenger elevators, power backup and fire protection systems are hand in hand with provisions for continuous water supply, telephone, Internet and cable TV.

Central to the Tuscan theme is the gardini. And this is not just any garden. A fifth of the entire project is reserved for the cultivation of greenery. This not only provides a refreshing sight for tired eyes accustomed to the concrete jungle, but also adds a soothing and cooling effect the way nature intended. Turn your head around and you'll find lots and lots of greens—from the verdant parks to fountain-laden courtyards to the lush trees that abound.

Amenities

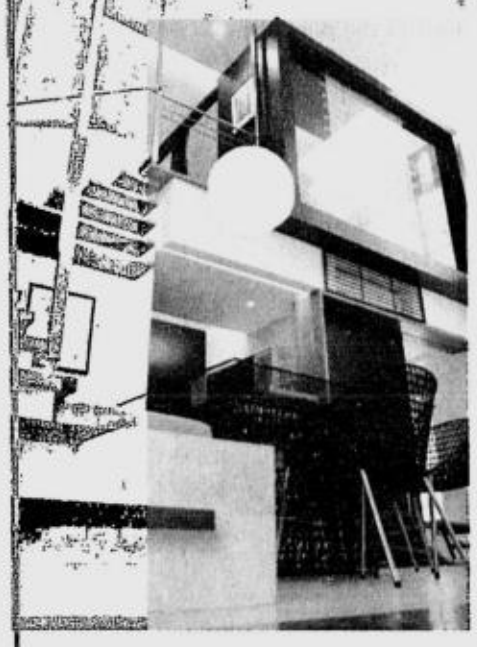
At McKinley Hill Tuscany Private Estate, amenities are far from medieval. Whether it's swim, sun, or spring, you'll get plenty here. Cluster 7 is home to a variety of activities for a fit mind and body including assorted swimming pools, a sunbathing lounge and a lagoon-centered park. A sauna, gym, function rooms and play areas are provided to those who prefer the less-natural means of enjoyment.

Covered walkways among the clusters lead to a retail row inspired by the trattorias and pizzerias in the Old Country. However, you'll get your hands on more than mozzarella cheese, as the retail row houses more specialty shops and restaurants than you can handle at a single stroll.

Situated at the heart of the McKinley Hill development at Fort Bonifacio, McKinley Hill Tuscany Private Estate offers the best of the Old World and gives it a modern twist. This is not a simple recreation of the famous region of Tuscany, but a recreation of the Tuscan way of life made famous all over. After settling in among its delightful gardens and majestic residences, don't be surprised if you find yourself shaking your head and wondering if you actually left the country.

To see for yourself and maybe even fall in love with McKinley Hill Tuscany Private Estate, please call 815-1888 for an appointment.

Philtown: Building Masterpieces



Man's need for shelter has evolved from concrete caves, to sturdy huts, to comfortable houses, and, finally, to the more sophisticated high-rise, modern condominiums. Even his sense for the aesthetics has become richer, and his needs, more complex. Scoliosis

At this day and age, with work being what it is, what little time you have left for yourself is often spent running errands, or braving traffic to get to where you have to go. So where does home fit in? Depending on your preferences, you can either favor breaking away from the hustle and bustle of the city by nesting in a homey environment, or you can live it up in a low-maintenance condo where everything and anything you need is within reach. You might even want paradise in the middle of the city, enjoying the lush scenery without sacrificing the conveniences of urban living.

Whatever tickles your fancy, Philtown Properties has foreseen it, catered to it, and improved on the idea in ways that can only be described as masterful.

Among their premier projects are One Mckinley Place, the classy Fairways Tower, and the stylish, The Metropolitan and student friendly W.H. Taft Residences.

The Metropolitan, a relatively new deluxe residential project, is part of a distinct, self-contained and complete community where everything you need is within walking distance. Need a book? Want to watch a movie? Feel like sweating it out in the country club? The Metropolitan makes all these available.

What's more is that it allows its tenants or members free and complete access to what is foreseen as the country's foremost athletic club, Metropolitan Athletic Club (MAC). This sports complex boasts of a full range of sports and recreational facilities.

Soaring High with Metropolitan Sky Lofts

Among the many perks of The Metropolitan are the Sky Lofts. Housed within the cutting edge architectural magnum opus of renowned designers Recio and Casas, The Metropolitan Sky Lofts is considered the best in its class owing to the units' magnificent view of Makati's breathtaking skyline.

Each unit is given two floors ranging from 100 to 200 square meters. With two or three bedrooms, the fantastic view, and your own imagination, you, too, can live at the very tips of the rabbit¢s white furs.

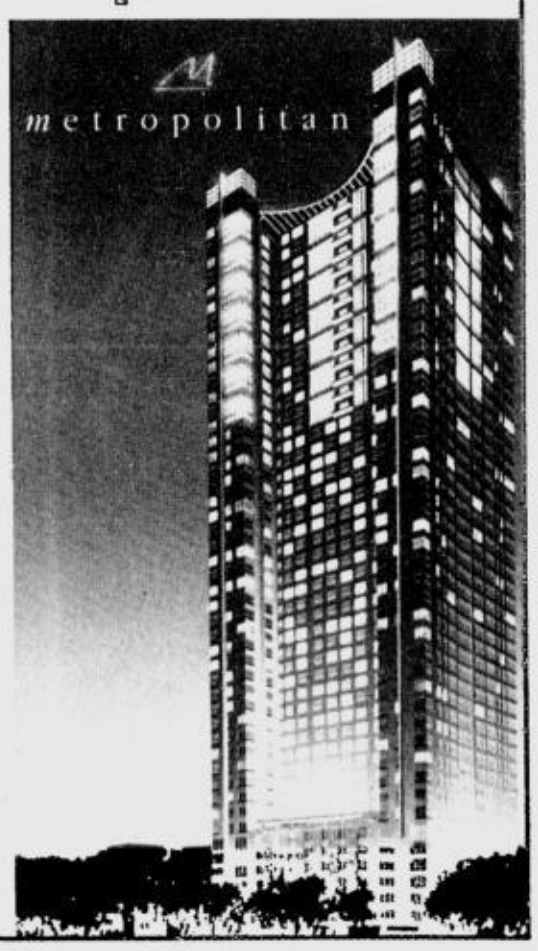
Think about it: above you, the clear, blue sky, and right below, the busy city. Surrounded by full glass windows on three sides, you can truly connect to the creation without leaving your home. What more can you ask for? With Sky Lofts, you¢re living in a plane that can only be described as surreal.

The tallest tower in the block, The Metropolitan features one hundred five Sky Loft units, twenty-eight of which have three-side corners, with twenty-foot, full-view glass windows on each side, giving you a sense of being surrounded by the sky.

The Metropolitan gives you more room for creativity by keeping the rules loose. With the aid of one of the Philippines¢ top designer, Ed Calma, your Sky Loft unit can be whatever you want it to be. Its bareness serves as a canvas. He expounds: "The over-riding thread in the bare design is the severity of lines, the starkness of the walls giving the illusion of bigger space. And this space is hovering above everything else, giving an incredible feeling of being on top!"

Indeed, the magnificent view from this vantage point unifies the interior and exterior into one expansive natural space. In the designer's words, "you got openness, the experience of nature and everything else, all in one area."

Interested? Contact Philtown at their Philippine office at 818-2330 or 890-5714. And you can also send inquiries at 0917-8536539 or email sales@philtown.net.



COMMUNITIES PHILIPPINES' PORTELLO

Italian-inspired residential estate in Batangas

THE 50-HECTARE residential estate of Portello features lush landscaping to complement the Batangas countryside.

A PLACE to rejuvenate and relax within the confines of your Italian-themed home.

BATANGAS HAS GAINED FAME for the lure of its world-class dive sites and beaches which continue to attract both foreign and local tourists. A strong economy and continuous industrialization makes it one of the fastest progressing areas in the south. These advancements are also complemented by the close proximity of Batangas from the southern skirt of the metropolis. Communities Philippines brought its real estate expertise to Sto. Tomas, Batangas and created an ideal site in which to raise families in its exclusive residential development, Portello.

A proud subsidiary of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., Communities Philippines is the expert in converting the countryside into a landscape of sought-after enclaves and is the first Manila-based developer to expand operations into key cities and municipalities across the country. Vista Land is the country's largest homebuilder offering the broadest spectrum of homes for all income segments and catering to different lifestyles across the entire country.

Residential estate

The 50-hectare, Italian-inspired residential estate of Portello is located in Brgy. San Vicente in Sto. Tomas which is close to other booming Batangas towns like Calamba, San Pablo, Tanauan and Laurel.

Various home and lot packages are available to complement various living requirements and finances. The Bungalow Series is for individuals and beginning families who wish to invest in a home all to their own. It features Rosemary, Chamomile, Cranberry, Citronella and Celandine with floor areas ranging from 31 to 72 square meters on a 88- to 156-sq-m lot.

For growing families

The full two-story residences is for growing families. It offers Lavender, Petunia, Amaranth, Crossandra, Althaea, Cypress and Aspen with floor areas ranging from 66 to 200 sq m on a 110- to 225-sq-m lot.

Price begins at P699,000. A new series suited for beginning families are also available: Aster, Lilac, Peony, Iris and Thyme with floor areas starting at 25 to 42 sq m on a 77- to 110-sq-m lot.

With its first phase almost sold out in less than a year, Portello is slated to open its second phase in the first quarter of 2008 to accommodate more families desiring a comfortable home in this exclusive enclave in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Portello's new access road going to Tanauan is currently in progress to establish Sto. Tomas as the next gateway to the south. The strategic location of Portello is just 30 minutes away from the commercial and business district of Alabang, 15 minutes from the Calamba exit to the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), seven minutes away from the Micarelli School and Cabrini Hospital, and three minutes from Laurel and Maharlika Highway junction.

Sun kissed villas . . .

From page B3-1

Silang, Cavite, its lots were quickly sold.

Recently, Landco announced it will offer another package for homebuyers who want to live in such a setting but without the hassle of having to build their own house.

Completely built

The developer, known for its high-quality residential resorts, has introduced a new phase in Ponderosa where 10 completely built vacation homes—called Ponderosa Villas—will be offered.

Landco Pacific tapped architect Carlos Hubilla of the Hubilla Design Group to make three sprawling, single-story homes of varying designs and sizes.

The first is Villa Jasmina, which is accented by a wall-hung water fountain and the unique hexagonal living room that is isolated from the main living spaces.

The other is Villa Althea, which has a central trellised courtyard framed by the living, dining and master bedroom giving all the rooms a view of the three-tiered water fountain at its center.

The biggest model, Villa Amaranta, has an open planned living and dining area that is perfect for entertaining guests.

Open architecture

According to Hubilla, the open architecture of Ponderosa Villas also integrates the Spanish-Mexican theme that defined Ponderosa.

Landco said the houses of Ponderosa Villas will boast of wide windows to bring in lots of light, sliding doors that open to outdoor areas, and living spaces that spill into dining and kitchen areas.

Every bedroom will also have its own toilet and bathroom with a pocket garden to bring the outdoor ambiance inside.

Also, 75 percent of each Ponderosa Villas lot will be allotted to a garden that will be designed by landscape artist Paolo Alcazaren.

Attention to detail, materials

While the houses at Ponderosa Villas will be offered completely built up, much attention will be given to the detail and materials that will be used—roof tiles, stucco walls, trellises, high ceilings (at least three meters), rounded corners, and earth tones that give a "weathered look."

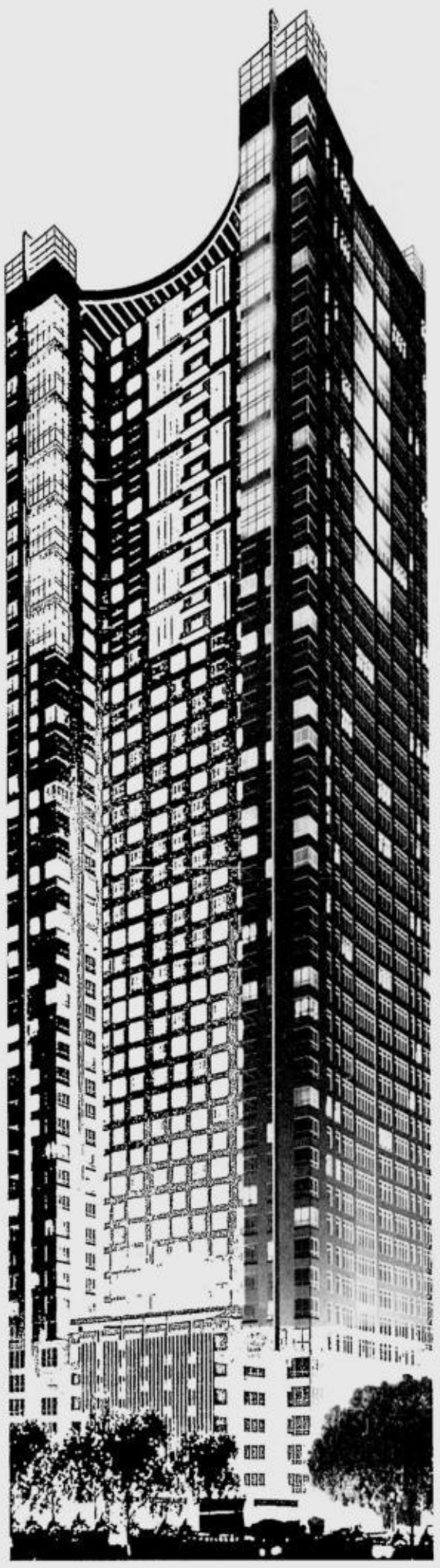
Hubilla likes to call it mission-style architecture and with this particular esthetic in mind, he designed the villas with equal emphasis on functional point of view.

Aside from the themed gardens and flower-lined paths that define Ponderosa community, Ponderosa Villas owners will be able to enjoy the development's numerous amenities such as Villa Ponderosa Clubhouse, campsite, children's playground, outdoor dining and special events area.

Landco expects the Ponderosa Villas to be finished by November this year.

COURTYARD at Ponderosa Villas

metropolitan



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Visit our weekend open house this whole month of November! Get in the middle of the action with special beauty workshops by Clinique, triathlon clinic by Ige Lopez and belly dancing classes by Ivy Tubins!

The Metropolitan Club will be ready for use by February 2008!

Starting This Week, this corner in INQUIRER Property will be featuring world's amazing structures—erected out of man's playful minds and products of human's mastery of crafts.

The Dancing House

AMAZING STRUCTURES

By Emman Cena

THE MUSIC ON THAT SIDE OF THE street must have been catchy for a building to sway and dance like a crazy teenage partygoer.

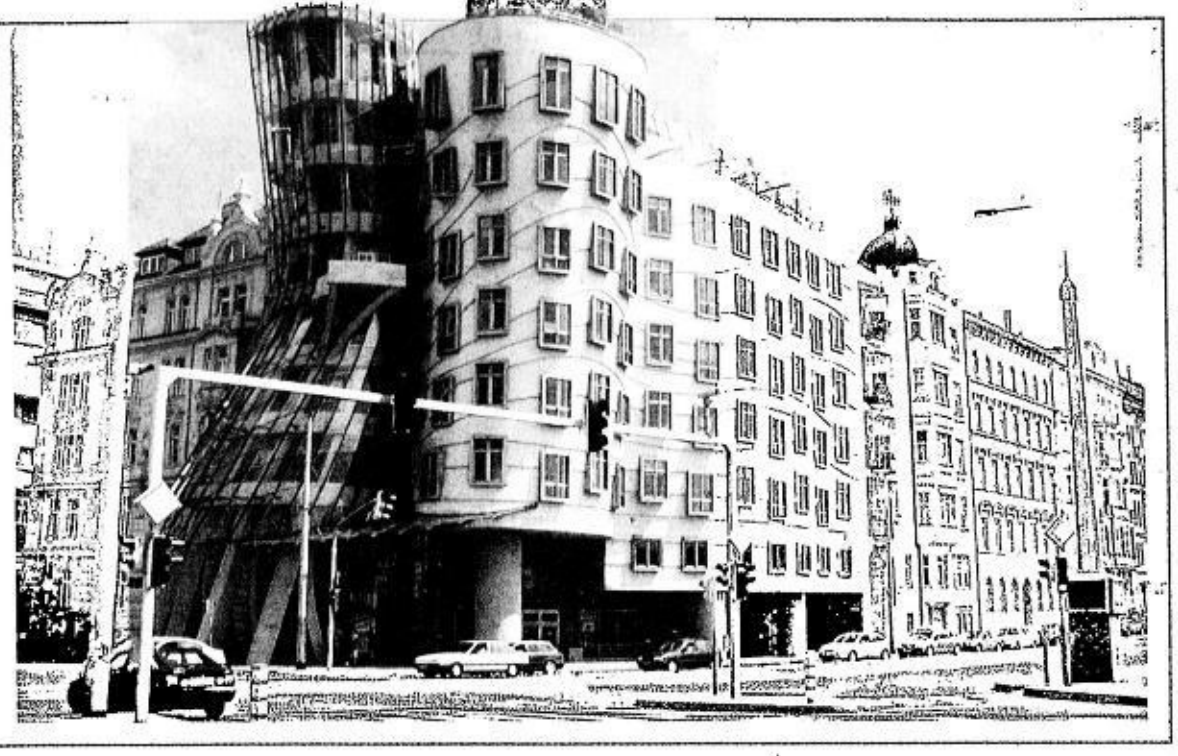
Aptly called the Dancing House, this office building in downtown Prague, Czech Republic, has been getting a lot of attention from people passing by the corner of Rasinovo Nabrezi and Resslova streets.

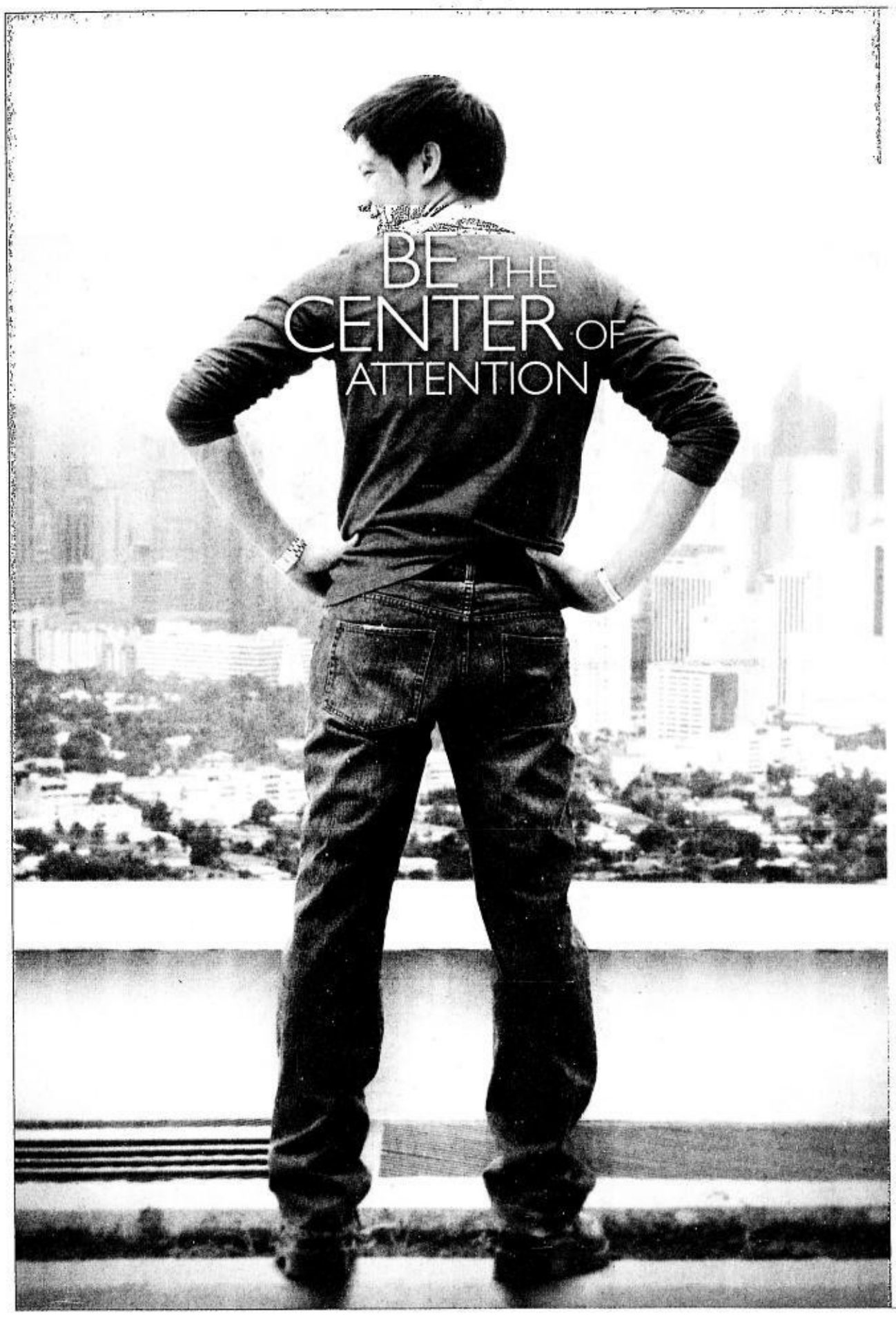
The building, also dubbed as the "Drunk House," was designed by Czech architect Vlado Miluni and Canadian architect Frank Gehry. It took two years to complete the building which started construction in 1994.

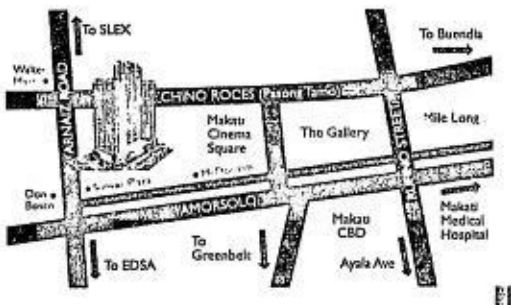
The very nontraditional design of the structure had gotten its limelight during its construction even getting the support of Czech president Václav Havel who believed that the building would become a center of cultural activity.

Originally named Fred and Ginger (after the legendary dance duo Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers), the house stands out among the Neo-Baroque, Neo-Gothic and Art Nouveau buildings for which Prague is famous for. The dancing house is used as an office building but one can enjoy the city view if you dine at a French restaurant located on the roof of the house.

Reference: http://www.prague.net







Unit prices start at P1.4M or as low as P11,888 a month.

Things look different when seen from the top. And when it's seen from a prime location like The Beacon, it looks even better. Rising along Don Chino Roces Avenue corner Arnaiz Avenue, this is the prime address you've been looking for because everything that matters is just close by. The Makati Central Business district, premier shopping centers like Greenbelt, Glorietta and Waltermart, hospitals, schools and churches are all just steps away.

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Geo-Estate

Green amenities attract buyers to Manhattan Garden City

The undeniable strategic and central location of the Araneta Center has drawn hundreds of aspiring homeowners and investors to Manhattan Garden City. But recently, a new major consideration has drawn their attention: its green amenities.

"Megaworld and the Araneta Group envision a private park filled with a wide array of amenities for Manhattan Garden City residents. The pool for the active set is surrounded by verdant landscaping. Benches amidst greeneries are also provided for those who want to take it easy through reading and chatting. Trellises shield residents against the sun while walking to the next building, or to the train station. The green environment for them provides a refreshing breath of fresh air in the highly urbanized metro," noted Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu.

Most landscapes in the metro are perfectly manicured. These are noticeably artificial. The free-form planting arrangements at Manhattan Garden City, however, give residents a "natural feel while walking." The mass tropical planting is expected to create a microenvironment, which will approach how plants thrive without human intervention. The lush foliage is also expected to cool the surroundings and filter pollutants out of the air.

"Once this private nature park is built, it will be an amazing sight for residents. A gushing fountain here, potted flowering plants attracting butterflies at the corner, a palm tree adding height and breadth to the Araneta Center skyline... this experience makes living here a joy for the senses," Yu declared.

To inspect for yourself the green aspects of Manhattan Garden City, please call 810-3333 or visit www.themanhattangardencity.com.

The Manhattan Garden City adds the green aspect to living at the Araneta Center.

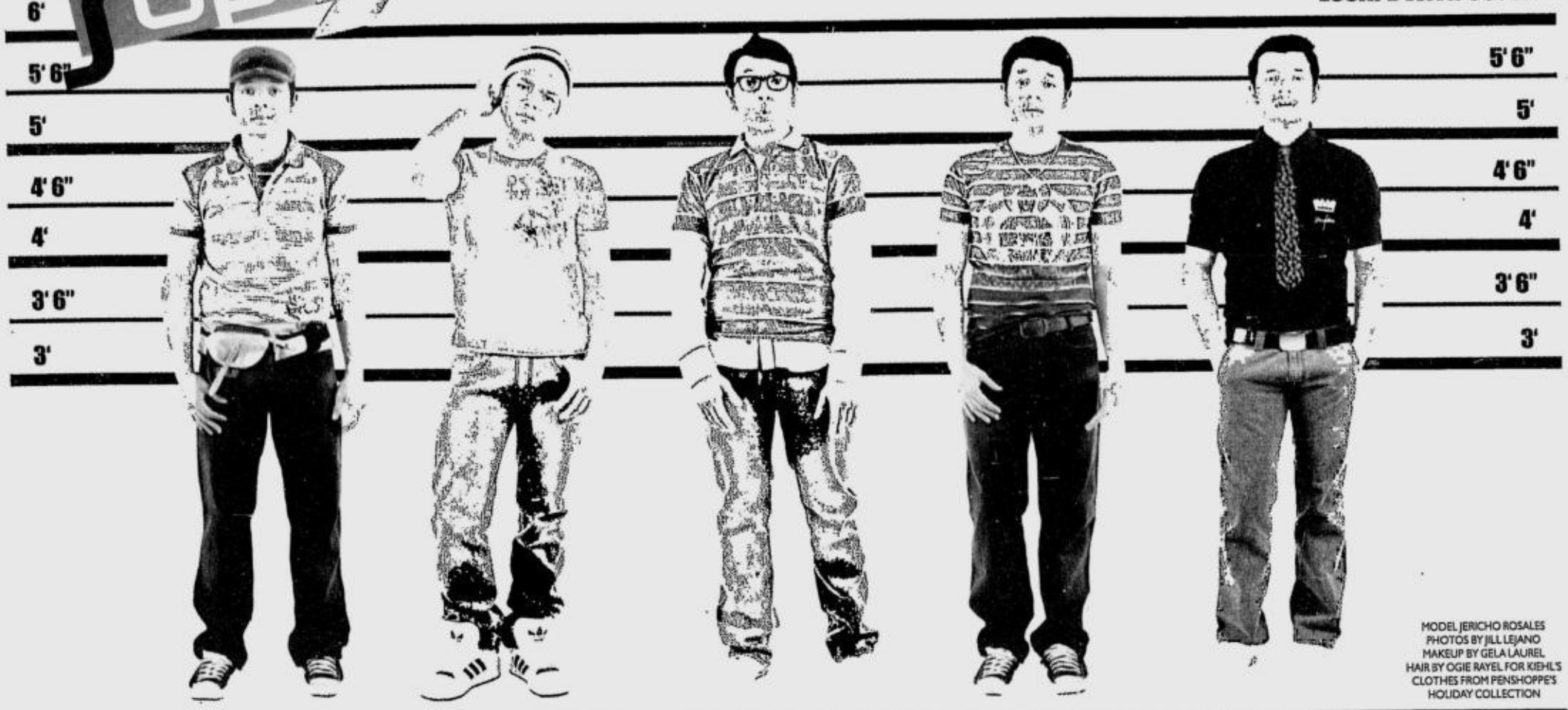
Benches at the fourth floor podium deck are best for reading or for a chitchat with family and friends.

Flowering plants in various colors will be propagated in a free-form style throughout Manhattan Garden City.

Super

This week Super means ▸▸ Suspect • Undercover • Prints • Evidence • Robbery

ESCAPE WITH SUPER



MODEL JERICHO ROSALES
PHOTOS BY JILL LEJANO
MAKEUP BY GELA LAUREL
HAIR BY OGIE RAYEL FOR KIEHL'S
CLOTHES FROM PENSHOPPE'S
HOLIDAY COLLECTION

Unusual suspects

FLY WITH SUPER ▸▸

Pilot: Pam Pastor · Co-Pilot: Katrina A. Holigores First Officers: Tais Diaz, James Gabrillo, Wanggo Gallaga, Juana Manahan, Paolo Reyes · Air Traffic Controller: Abel Ulanday · Cabin Crew: Belen Belesario, L.A. Mistades · Ground Control: Me-ann Ayos, Rissa Camongol, Lilie Lazaro

Throughout North Luzon, Victory Liner can go the distance with Sun!

"With more than 50% savings on our phone bills, Sun helps us cover any rise in fuel and toll charges."

Marivic Del Pilar, Treasury & Marketing Manager of Victory Liner

Victory Liner, one of the largest bus companies in the country, faces the challenge of transporting tens of thousands of passengers all over North Luzon everyday. That is why they trust and believe in a communication expert that is just as effective—Sun Cellular.

"Wala na ang culture na nagtitipid ng load because with Sun's Call & Text Unlimited, we can call each other anytime," says Marivic.

All field and line supervisors use Sun Cellular to monitor the Victory Liner bus fleet. Even their drivers and conductors now use Sun Cellular.

Every year, Sun plows in P11 billion to increase coverage and capacity, for more calls and texts anytime, anywhere.

"In the event of accidents, traffic or floods, they contact the head office in Manila, wherever in North Luzon they may be," says Marivic. Decision-making and reaction time is cut, and communication among the eight major terminals and sub-terminals in North Luzon is more efficient.

After 62 years of being in business, Victory Liner is bound for more success. And with Sun Cellular ensuring fast communication, they will definitely continue to go places.

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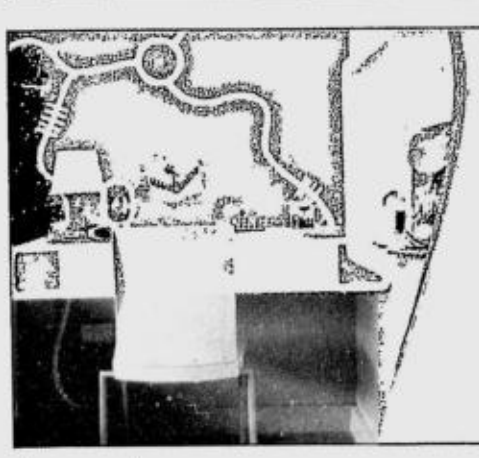

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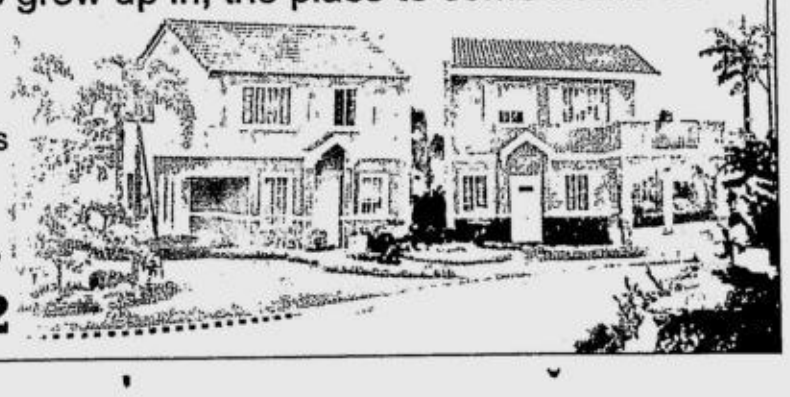

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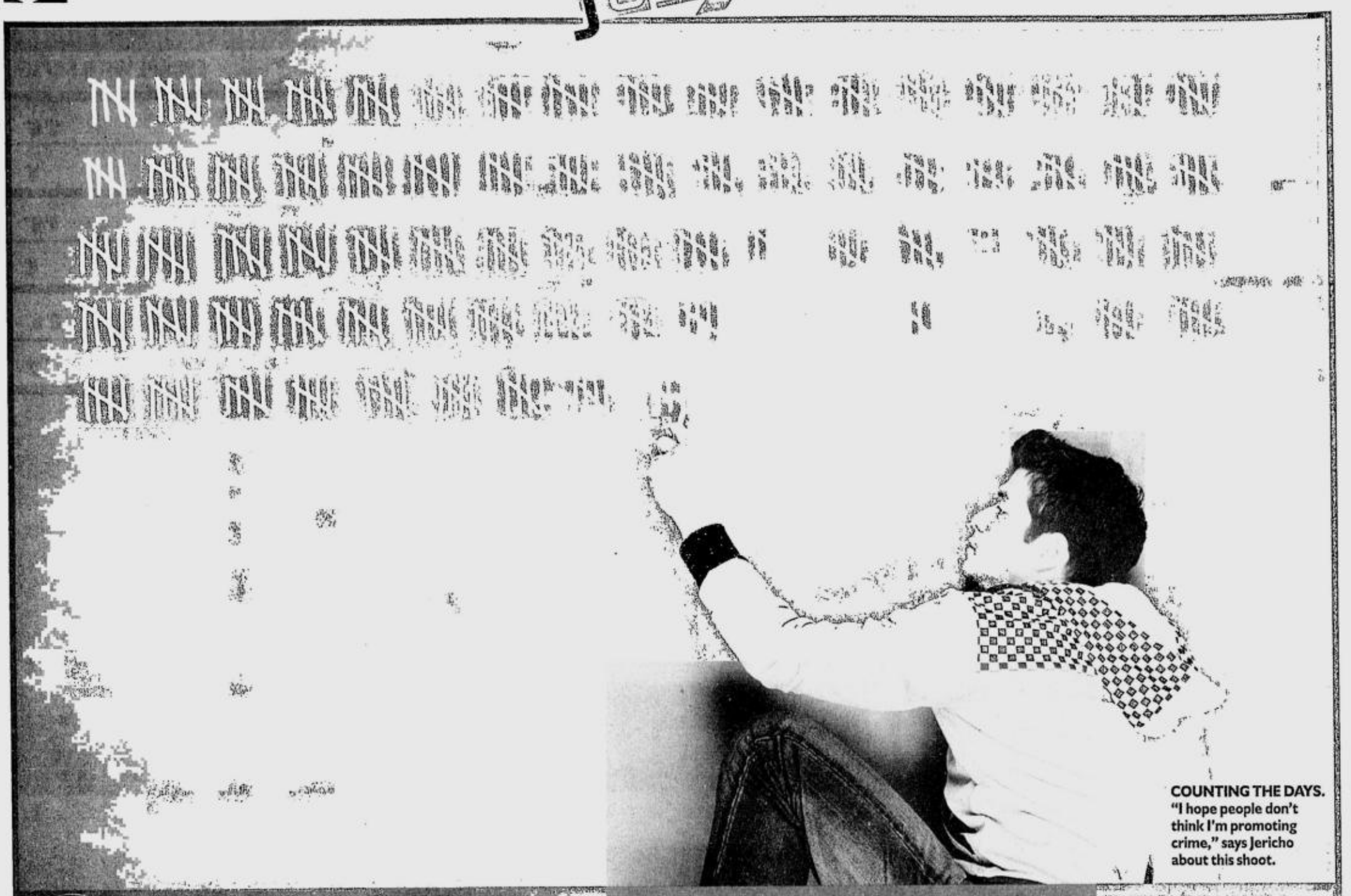


COUNTING THE DAYS. "I hope people don't think I'm promoting crime," says Jericho about this shoot.

Doing time with Jericho

He traded his halo for handcuffs and turned the studio into a crime scene.

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Jill Lejano

MAKEUP BY GELA LAUREL
HAIR BY OGIE RAYEL FOR KIEHL'S
CLOTHES FROM PENSHOPPE'S HOLIDAY COLLECTION

JERICHO ROSALES refused to touch the blood.

It wasn't real blood, just goo whipped up in the bathroom of DPI studios, a gory mix of water and red food coloring.

"Does it scare you?" I asked, lifting the blood-drenched plastic doll.

"No, it's just a little too extreme for me. Sorry, guys," he said, apologetically.

And just like that, doll and gunk were taken away, and the rest of the shoot proceeded without a hitch.

It wasn't a diva moment, oh no. The man just knows his limits and sticks by them. And the fact that he didn't have to ask anyone else to say how far he was willing to go is something that should be appreciated. In an industry teeming with people hiding behind people, people who allow themselves to be molded like clay, people willing to do just about everything for a little bit of publicity, it was a breath of fresh, blood-free air.

Despite being in the industry for ten years, Jericho hasn't been sucked into the system. The key, he thinks, is making sure he maintains a normal life outside of work. Right now, he is busy with his ABS-CBN soap opera "Pangarap Na Bituin" and with finishing his new album which will be out in December. Jericho isn't your regular showbiz personality—he is open about his life and the people he loves, he has no qualms talking about his past and he values his faith above everything else.

He calls his Penshoppe endorsement an "answered prayer." "I'm happy. It's a cool family to be in."

He appreciates the brand's different approach. "Our first campaign Denim Love. turned Edsa into something else. Heart (Evangelista) and I were happy about it. In the midst of *mga nagbo*-bold *dyan sa* billboards, *biglang naglabasan yung mga* angels," he said.

For this Super shoot, Jericho traded his angel wings for handcuffs and his halo for a mugshot board, turning the studio into a crime scene.

What are you busy with now?

I just had my anniversary concert, Raw Energy, at the Music Museum. Sir Gary Valenciano and I directed it. We're expecting a repeat soon. I just came back from Europe where I had shows. I'm working on my new album and on a film script for next year. I'm also busy with PAWS, *namumulot ako ng mga pusa at aso sa kalye*.

Do you still have time for gigs?

I'm trying to fix my schedule so my band Jeans can have gigs. *Kase yun yung* balance bar *ko eh, yung* music.

What do you love about show business?

I like that people get inspired when they see me. I like it when kids call me Panday in the provinces. Those are the little things. I get a sense of value, that I'm doing something right. I get a sense that they love me.

What do you hate about it?

There's too many unreal things and it moves fast and it fades fast. It forgets easy. It's cold sometimes. I hate it when the whole industry changes a person. It's like a disease. You dip your foot into it and you get affected.

How do you deal with it?

I do the things that I like to do. I don't go with the flow. I'm not a snob. I get a sense of real life. I walk and talk to people on the streets. What matters to people most is that you talk to them and you make them feel human.

When I ask celebrities what they hate about the business, the answer is always the same—*chismis*. But you didn't mention it. Why?

I don't worry about it, I don't worry about what people will say. I don't think I'm doing anything wrong. I don't remember the worst thing they've said about me. Maybe I'm an alien. *Lumilipas lang para sa akin*. But I've been through a lot, I've been hit really really hard, but I forgive them. *Kasama talaga yan eh, kahit sa opisina may chismis*.

Why have you been so open about your relationship with Heart?

Na-experience *ko na yung* life in hiding and it's not easy. What's wrong with being honest? Heart and I have been together for almost three years now and from day one I never hid anything.

What else are you passionate about?

Music, acting, surfing, photographs. Directing, that's my goal.

What kind of movies will you make?

Movies that matter. *Basta walang* bad values.

What's the best thing about what you do?

That I can share things. The only hard thing to share is faith. It's hard when you push it to people, so what I do is live a good life and let people see what I do. Photography, music and acting, I can share. It's all about sharing for me.

How do you relax when you're not working?

I play with my dogs. Heart has five, I have one. But I consider her dogs mine. I run, skateboard, surf and watch a lot of movies.

What's a normal day like for you?

Every day's different. I spend time with Heart, I go to her house, we watch a movie and we eat. I spend time with my family. I try to live a normal life *kahit nasa* showbiz *ako*.

What are your plans for the future?

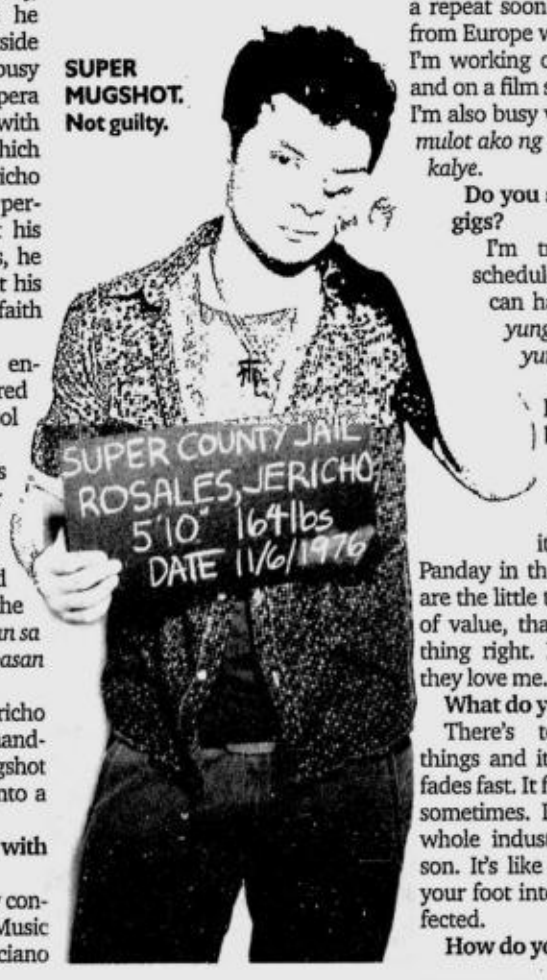
I want to have my own barbershop and restaurant. But before that, Heart and I will open a grooming station for pets.

If you weren't in show business, what would you be doing?

I'd be the president of the Philippines. That's a hard question, *wala akong pangarap noon eh*. When I started, I was a service crew for Greenwich and a personal driver. Honestly, *kung hindi ako nag-artista, siguro* struggle *pa rin ako ngayon*. I could be a store manager now. One thing that I love about being in showbiz is I discovered myself and what I want. I want to be a director, a producer, a singer, a musician, a lyricist. Showbiz gave me an idea *kung ano ang gusto kong gawin sa buhay*.

AT THE shoot, Jericho was hit with an idea for a new TV show. "What if you were handcuffed to a stranger for a day?"

NO VICTIM. "I do what I like. I don't go with the flow."



SUPER MUGSHOT. Not guilty.

Shortcut to notoriety

By James Gabrillo
Photos by Rico Ramoso

A VISUAL SHOWCASE OF creativity streamed all night at the G Hotel where Nokia Cinemaiksi's 1st Philippine Advertising Congress Short Film Festival featured skillful and quirky teams from the top advertising agencies in the country.

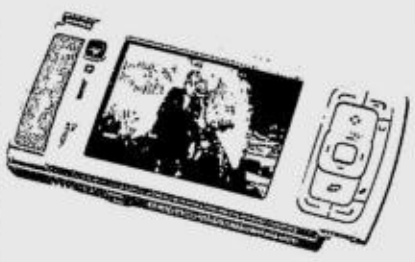
The two-day fest propped up short films as a medium to express the artistic skills unique to us Pinoys. It also turned into a vehicle for the ad mavericks to be trained through workshops and talks by experienced film guys: Jim Libiran (The Director as Storyteller), director of Cinemalaya 2007's Best Film "Tribu;" ace cinematographer Poppet Celdran (The Art of Lighting for Film and Video), and ABS-CBN's master digital editor Dominic Salvacion (Cutting Edge: Techniques from the Masters). Bigfoot Entertainment's Mark Gary joined the trio in judging the works.

Teams of two were asked to create a 60-seconder short film overnight. Each duo worked on an assigned theme, which varied from "You know you're a Pinoy if ... " to "Only in the Philippines." Five of these competing teams were chosen to move on and compete in the finals to be held in Subic during the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress from Nov. 21-24.

Meck Besinga and Ana Menguito from DDB Philippines exhausted their minute with a cleverly shot chase that climaxed with a CGI scene where guys were stuck in the middle of the air. Their film "Pause" won Best Cinematography and Editing, and was chosen as one of the five finalists.

JWT's Kara Bautista and Joey Claronino's short "K" stood out among the bunch with their piece on a garbage collector receiving fine advice from a fellow collector through a text message: "Lipat ka dto kanto," referring to a better spot to dig up junk. The collector replies with the very Pinoy, "k." Cheeky! Comedy!

The other three finalists are Leo Burnett Manila's JP Cuison and Mela Advincula's short "Takatakatok," where the distinct and amusing sounds of Manila are put together into one montage; "Hahanap-hanapin Mo," by Katrina Encanto and Nicole Tolentino of Ace Saachi & Saachi featuring a dude confined in a high-class hotel who hunts for a *tabo*; and "Global Warming" by Argem Vinuya and Maki Maquiling of DDB Philippines, with their shorts that begins with images of flowers and plants and ends with a guy taking a wiss on the poor greens. *Um*.



Weapon of Choice

During the entire production process, the teams were each armed with a Nokia N95, an all-in-one multimedia computer with a five megapixel cam and support for high-speed mobile networks, making it so much easier to watch and record videos while on the move.

With the Carl Zeiss optics on the five megapixel camera, one can capture print quality photos and DVD-like quality video clips. Photos and video clips can be enjoyed on a compatible television thanks to the device's TV out feature and support for Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) technology.

The Nokia N95 also offers a first class entertainment experience with the combination of a large 2.6" QVGA 16 million color display, impressive 3D graphics, built-in stereo speakers offering a 3D stereo effect, standard 3.5 mm audio jack, support for compatible microSD cards and mini USB for convenient data transfer.

Browsing the Internet on the Nokia N95 is a pleasure using the Nokia Web Browser with Mini Map, with new features such as a floating toolbar, password manager and auto complete, as well as web feeds with support for Atom and auto update. Cool.

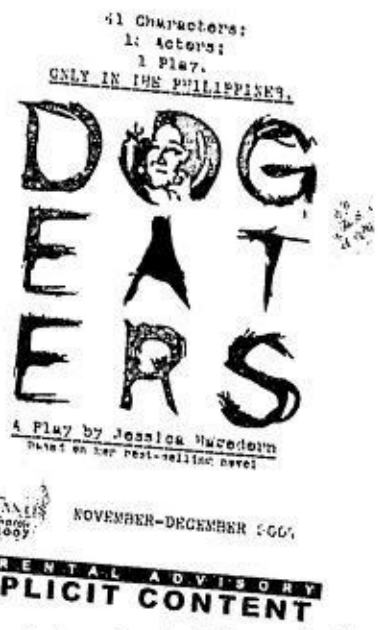
24/7 SUPER RADAR

By Janine Cuenca-Dario and Stef Juan

EXPERIENCE getting lost in the woods of your beloved fairy tales as the New Voice Company stages Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award-winning musical, **Into the Woods** on Nov. 9 to 30, Dec. 1 - 8. Starring musical theater greats Michael Williams, Menchu Lauchengco, and Lynn Sherman, with Monique Wilson as artistic director. The show starts at 8 p.m. at the Music Museum. Call 891-9999.

FEEL the warmth of EverydayLight and be inspired at the Silverlens Gallery today at 3-5 p.m. as Rose Yenko talks about **The Creative Process: Drawing from the Well Within**. This activity marks the last day of EverydayLight—a show that is not just meant to be seen but to be experienced, with the artist celebrating the spaces or pause that occur a thousand times in a day. Silverlens gallery is located at 2320 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati. Call 816-0044 or email manage@silverlensphoto.com.

RELIVE our recent bittersweet Philippine history in Dogeaters, a play by Jessica Hagedorn, based on her critically-acclaimed novel of the same name. And follow the intertwining fictional, but-oh-so familiar, stories set in 1982, at the fall of the Marcos regime. Starring Gina Alajar, Michael de Mesa and Teresa Herrera. **Dogeaters** goes on stage on Nov. 16 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium in RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Call Atlantis Productions 892-7078.



SEE the love of music shine through as several of our country's great music artists come together for the benefit of two beautiful young sopranos, Pamela Pascua and Alexis Edralin, who are undergoing chemotherapy for their cancer. "Love Concert" at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. will feature performances by Cynthia Alexander, Coke Balipata, MYMP, Cocoy Laurel and other music greats with the special participation of Pamela Pascua. At least P500 donation during the show will be deeply appreciated. Call 439-0538 and 421-1898.

HEAR the spontaneity of unadulterated jazz as top German trombonist **Nils Wogram** and his jazz band Root 70 work their craft at the Francisco Santiago Hall (BDO Equitable South Tower, Makati Ave. corner H.V. Dela Costa St., Makati) on Nov. 12, 7 p.m. The band is brought to Manila by Goethe-Institut Manila and Instituto Cervantes with the Delegation of the European Commission. Call 840-5723 to 24.

TASTE innovative Filipino food at the newly inaugurated [illegible] (2/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell). Don't miss the Seared Tilapia in Coconut Emulsion, which bagged the gold award in the Market Basket Category of th e Chefs on Parade 2004 and the *turon* with choc-nut dip. Yum!

Get ready for some lomo love

THIS Nov. 10 to Dec. 2, LomoManila once again celebrates creativity with LomoLove Too, sequel of last year's successful exhibit LomoLove at the BlackSoup Project Artspace in Cubao Expo. This time, the exhibit is bigger, noisier, crazier and filled with anything and everything lomo.

The fun starts today at LomoLove Too! exhibit launch party where more than 100 lomographers have their best works at the Black Soup Project Artspace.

The launch also features a concert with live performances by the country's top bands The Dawn, Camp Sawi, Taken By Cars, Ni-Ronnie's Top Tunes, Parokya ni Edgar, Ang Bandang Shirley and Paco's Mga Bwitre.

The party starts at 8 p.m.

Watch this space next week to find out about other surprises LomoManila has in store for you.

LomoManila's LomoLove Too! is made possible through major sponsors Smart Communications, Fuji, YKK, Linksys and Cristal Mediang. This special event is also supported by Serve, TeamManila, KoleKab, Yogurt, Tbox, Havaianas, David & Goliath, Digipaint and Rock Ed. Media partners are RJ Underground Radio 105.9, Mobile Philippines, Super and Click-The-City.com.

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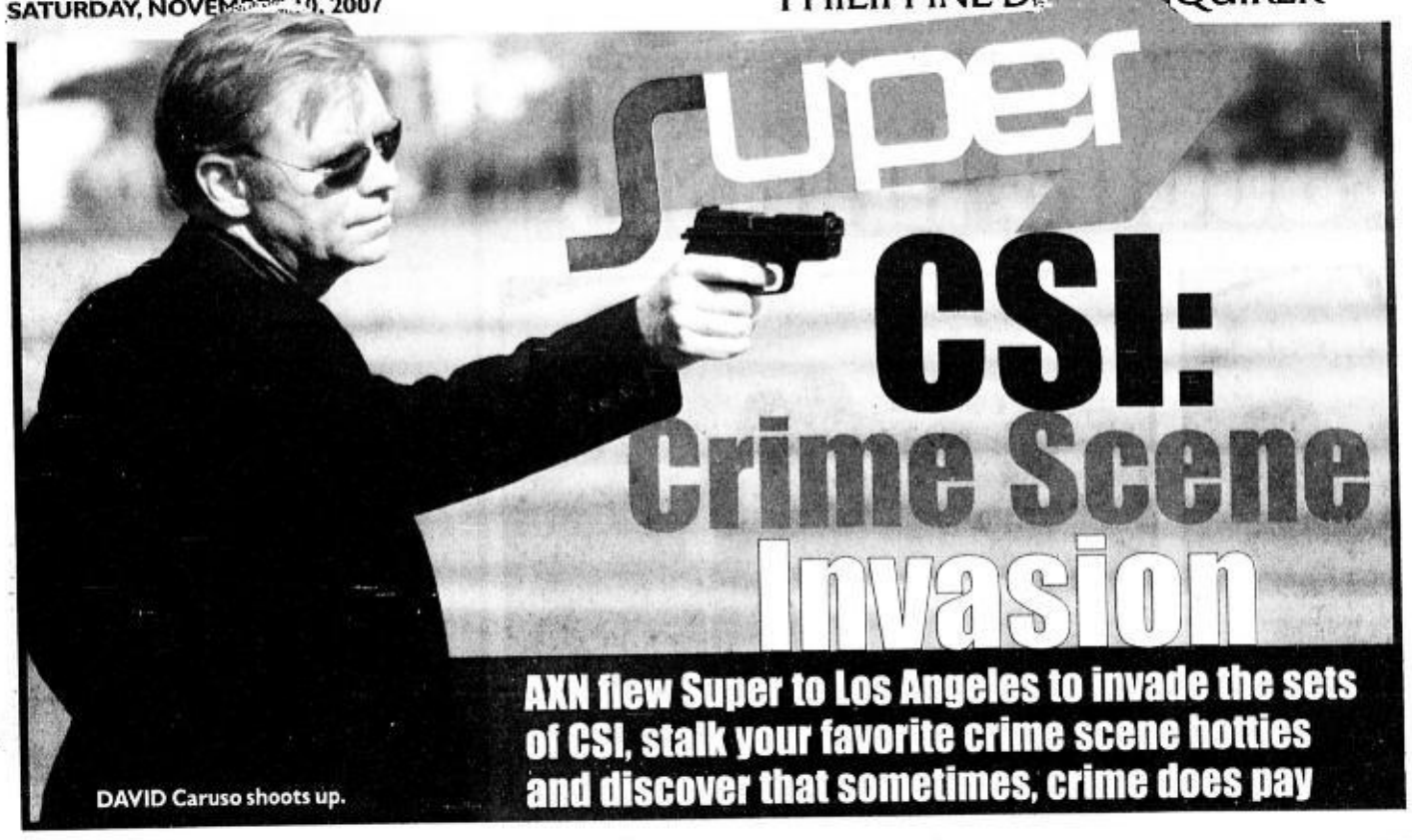


Super CSI: Crime Scene Invasion

AXN flew Super to Los Angeles to invade the sets of CSI, stalk your favorite crime scene hotties and discover that sometimes, crime does pay

DAVID Caruso shoots up.

Eureka! Chivas Regal Re-invents Club Music!

CHIVAS LIVE: DJ Lab Experiments

Chivas Regal has changed the event party landscape yet again with its CHIVAS LIVE DJ Lab Experiments! Fusing together diverse musical genres into a totally new aural and visual experience, the CHIVAS LIVE party series is proving to be a hit amongst even the most jaded of club goers.

Born out of the need to stand out in a local club scene that is increasingly becoming homogenous, Chivas Regal devised a seven leg party tour de force for Manila's top clubs and bars. Three main themes comprise the ground breaking DJ Lab Experiments: "Hypervox", a fusion of haunting live vocals with cutting edge house music, "Rocktronica", an eclectic mix of rock music and rousing electronica and "Light Mix", a visual spectacle of lights combined with blazing house beats.

To achieve this monumental task of effectively re-inventing the club scene, Chivas Regal enlisted the help of a gang of mix maestros who were willing to take electronica and house music to new heights. Respected as visionaries in the underground house music / electronica scene, DJs CouchLab (Juno Oebanda), Silverfilter (Cyril Sorongon), Funk Avy (Arvin Lapuz) and Suntheory (Brian Cua) didn't even blink when presented with the daunting challenge of mixing club beat staples with "un"-club music melodies.

The resumes of the Filipino fab four spinsters read better than most of the propaganda peddled out by "International" DJs. Arvin Lapuz aka Funk Avy is the only pure Filipino to release a locally produced E.P. overseas. He is currently signed with European record label Fusion Recordings.

Juno Oebanda, also known as a third of the DJ trio, CouchLab, is without a doubt one of the most sought-after spin specialists-and not to mention, live-event directors-in the country. In fact, his passion, vision and super-skilled fingers earned him a coveted, behind-the-scenes spot at the 2006 DJ Tiesto get-down and shakedown.

Shakedowns, by the way, also happen to be a Silverfilter specialty. Also known as Cyril Sorongon, this party animal played an integral role in the rise of live dance music this side of the Pacific. Hard-hitting sets, original tracks that criss-crossed various genres, and electrifying live experiences are staples of every Silverfilter performance-and clubbers everywhere are always thankful.

Rounding out the four DJs is Mr. Brian Cua aka Suntheory. This music maven is an award-winning composer/producer and dance-music enthusiast. Known for his remixes for Regine Velasquez ("Shine" ring a bell?) and Hale (Remember "The Day You Said Good Night"?), Suntheory is obviously a certified producer of unique club ditties. He shared his two-cents on the CHIVAS LIVE DJ Lab Experiments, saying: "We're honored that Chivas Regal chose us to represent their brand. I'm glad that they're pushing the boundaries for electronic music and allowing clubbers to have these unique experiences."

However impressive this band of music spinsters is, Chivas Regal decided to up the ante a bit: they had to play together SIMULTAENEOUSLY! Four DJs jamming on one stage, EVERY CHIVAS LIVE PARTY! But the envelope-pushing didn't end there. Chivas adds premiere guest artists into each and every musical performance. Now that is a grand DJ Lab experiment!

CHIVAS LIVE "Hypervox" in Warehouse 135 and Piedra featured the vocal stylings of Girl Valencia and the ever popular Skarlet. Club denizens were bewitched, bothered and serendipitously bewildered when little known (but tremendously talented) Girl Valencia sang her original song "Underground River" to a haunting house music beat. Unassuming but immensely skilled Skarlet countered with an electrifying performance of "Diamonds Are Forever". Indeed, school was in session in the music lab as young club goers unfamiliar with these classics found themselves in a totally new genre of club music.

The next stop for CHIVAS LIVE was Embassy Club, considered by most as the zenith of the local club scene. What can you offer in a venue that has seen all kinds of foreign and local acts let loose their sound and fury? Chivas' answer is the wildly successful "Rocktronica".

Epitome of rockstar cool Kevin Roy (frontman of Razorback) and legendary guitarist Jun Lopito joined the fab four DJ spinsters to ignite Embassy's dance floor. History was made that evening when the six musicologists cranked out electronica versions of cult rock classics such as "Everybody", Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love" and even REM's "To the one I love". But it was the Pinoy rock gem "Beep Beep" that dissolved the crowd into party hysterics. A thoroughly enjoyable Hard rock performance in Embassy? Only Chivas Regal could pull it off.

But wait. These potent, volatile concoctions of throw-down tunes and live performances have just begun. CHIVAS LIVE "Rocktronica" continues at Guilly's, Q.C. on Nov 9. A brand new theme dubbed "Light Mix" is set to debut on Nov 17 at Warehouse 135 and Nov 30 at Alchemy, Pasig. Everything comes to a head in a full blown cosmic experiment in CHIVAS LIVE "Ultra Mash" on Dec 8 at the new Embassy, The Fort, Taguig.

Just when you've given up on going out and seeing the same tired formula of DJs, lights and sights, Chivas Regal brings you the truly unexpected in each and every leg of its DJ Lab experiments. So go out, live life to the fullest and live the Chivas life!

Razorback frontman Kevin Roy's rockstar cool was the perfect counterpoint to the night's frenzied partying

Chivas Live's DJ Lab Experiments reinvents the club scene with a totally new aural and visual experience

Girl Valencia bewitched the crowd with her original "Underground River" to a haunting house music beat

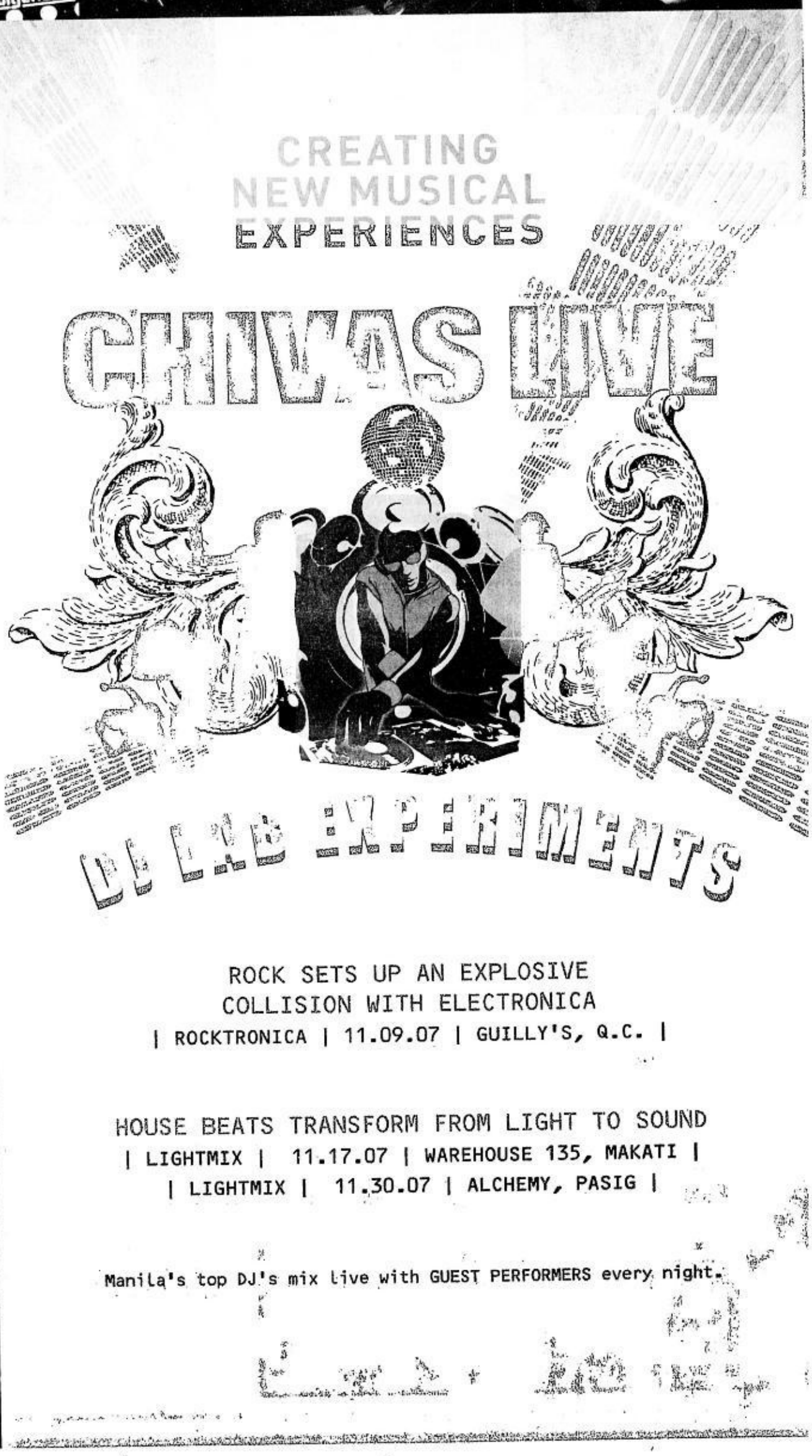
DJ Silverfilter rose to the challenge of mixing club beat staples with "un-club" music melodies

Skarlet belts out an electrifying performance of "Diamonds are Forever"

Legendary guitarist Jun Lopito rocked with cult classics

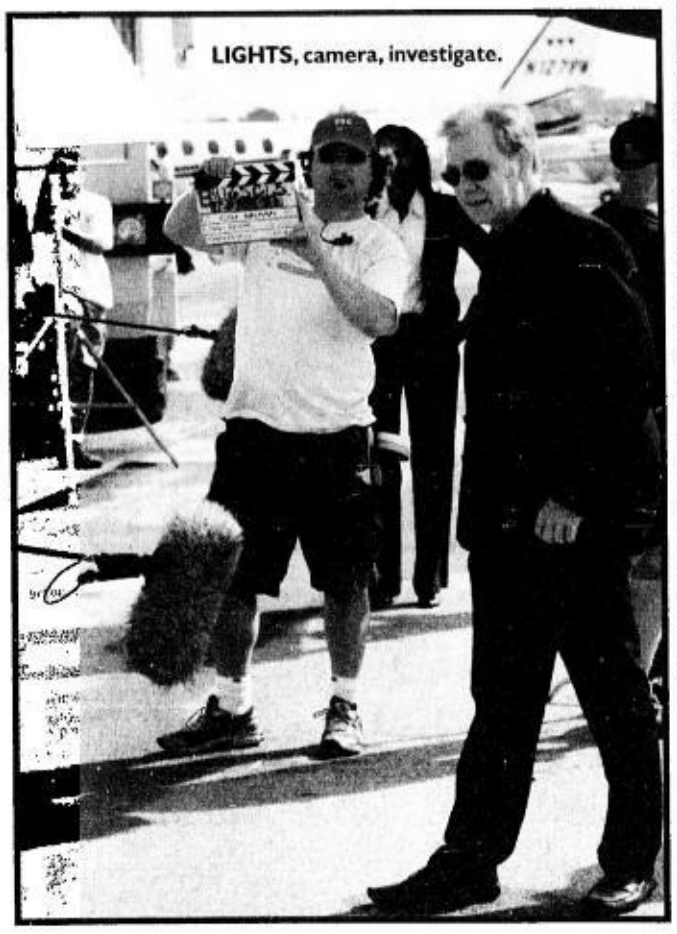
DJ Funk Avy's spin antics took electronica and house music to new heights

Chivas made history with the wildly successful "Rocktronica" at Embassy Club, the zenith of the local club scene



CSI: Crime Scene Invasion

CARMINE Giovinazzo looks up to Gary Sinise.



LIGHTS, camera, investigate.

GARY Dourdan as Warrick

By Katrina A. Holigores
Photos by Robert Voet

'BANG, BANG BANG!' AND THE bad guy falls to the ground, dead, and Horatio Caine walks away as cool as cool can be as a Hummer lies in flames in the background. "Cut!" is heard and the crew of about 50 people (probably more) start clapping and whistling as planes whiz by overhead at the Torrance Airport in Torrance, Los Angeles. Yes, it may surprise fans of the second franchise of CSI (Crime Scene Investigators) that this warmly lit, beach oriented series of CSI Miami is mostly filmed far, far away from the state of Florida and either on location or in the studios of Los Angeles, California. The truth is, all three versions of CSI are shot in Los Angeles with a crew flying out to the other states from time to time to get aerial or ambient footage to cut into the rest of the show. A short interview with David Caruso who plays the "either you love him or despise him" Horatio reveals that one of the first times they actually shot "on location" was their latest season opener in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In the Philippines, fans of the show can expect up to date episodes on AXN which is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. CSI is probably one of the most successful television franchises in the world and continues to prove that in terms of one of the first acquired programs of AXN (under Sony Picture Television International) that crime (and those who love watching it solved) does indeed pay, big time. Season after season the list of CSI junkies grows and fans of the show can keep up to date with what to expect next when they log on to www.axn-asia.com which features program schedules and a synopsis of what to expect. AXN has also brought in other hits such as Amazing Race and the highly anticipated second season (go Team Philippines!) of Amazing Race Asia. It is also worthy to mention House, Lost, 24 and The Shield are also on offer and worth a peek on this decade old cable channel.

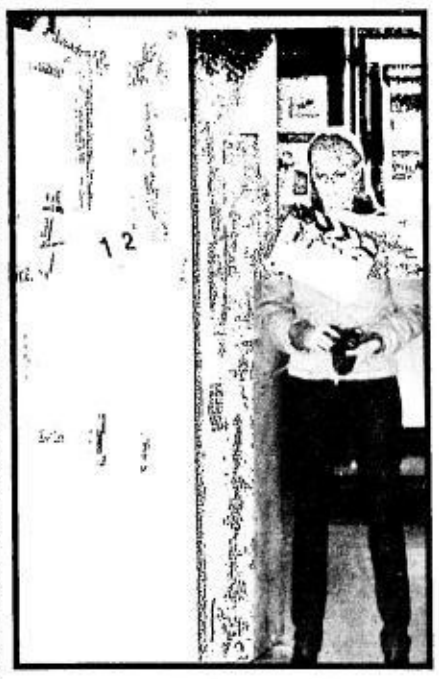
Andy Kaplan, president of Sony Pictures Television International said in a recent interview that "in terms of evolution AXN Asia as an example sort of created a pattern or a model or where our other channels go. You start off with an idea you create a brand, you buy the best programming with what you can afford at the time and then you start to build your distribution and you start to build your eyeballs and as time goes on you you have some success, garner some revenues and you start to invest more in programming and everything starts to get better and it goes on and on 'til you start buying better grade programs." CSI was used as an example of the better if not one of the best in terms of quality programs that was acquired by AXN and paved the way due to its popularity for more shows to be purchased and aired around the world.

Behind the scenes of CSI New York (yes still in LA) brought us into the office of Detective Mac Taylor played by Gary Sinise who walked in during a break in shooting to answer some questions. Interesting trivia is that offset, Gary does play the trumpet (as his character does on the show) in his band—the Lt. Dan Band—and he has flown out to entertain the troops. On the set of CSI Las Vegas, George Eadis (who plays Nick Stokes) was highly entertaining, very funny and forthright, calling himself a redneck turned Hollywood star and intimating his emotions on co-star's Jorja Fox's departure from the show. Of all the interviews, all the journalists admitted to being pleasantly surprised by David Caruso's warmth humor and charm(?)! Yes the redhead (not redneck) TV veteran is nowhere near the (as mentioned before) love or despise him Horatio Caine. He even gave out rather hilarious looking "Horatio" dolls (think the dog with the wiggling head at the back of some taxicabs ... then turn it into Horatio). All in all the cast members that were able to give us some off-screen time agreed on one thing, that it was the stand out writing and production quality of the series that made it such a hit. But of course, there was definitely a sense of competition especially as cast members from the pioneer series hinted that hey, they were and still remain, in first place. Perhaps one day we can expect to see shootout between the teams? Til then, catch the latest crime busting CSIs on AXN.

GEORGE Eads and Gary Dourdan clown around.

MARG Helgenberger waits for her cue.

Super hung out with Horatio Caine, Mac Taylor, Catherine Willows and Nick Stokes



FROM STRIPPER TO SUSPECT STALKER. Marg Helgenberger as Catherine Willows

CRIME scene invaders with CSI stars

Rock

LET'S GET THIS OUT OF THE WAY—I cannot sing to save the existence of the human race.

If a man dying of hunger had only to listen to my Cacophony in C Major Disaster in exchange for a free meal, I'd wager he'd opt for death by starvation—it'd be less painful. That said, it should be declared a crime against humanity if anyone extended any kind of invitation for me to croon, or be within a hundred feet of a microphone for that matter. The dire consequences being the crisis in Darfur, Typhoon "Milenyo," or the Writer's Guild strike in Hollywood.

Then again, when something as irresistible as the prospect of fulfilling your lifelong rockstar fantasy spills out to the local grapevine, then humanity be damned. The apocalyptic occasion in question is called Rockeoke; and if I may be so bold to mete out a shameless plug, I'd say it's the best thing to happen to a jaded urbanite since Gossip Girl hit the bit torrent stream. Rockeoke happens every other Monday at Mag Net (Bonifacio High Street), where the walls must be constructed with some indestructible concrete mixed with kryptonite for not being obliterated with the vocal nuclear bombs. It's yet another reason to look forward to Mondays, which has unexpectedly become the biggest night of the week, as we Pinoys seem to have a penchant for dealing with tyrannical forces with a coke and a smile.

OUT TH WINDO

Is this just fantasy

Filmmaker, industry icon and Super teammate Quark Henares greeted us inside Mag Net, with a thick folder that looked a lot like my college Philosophy homework. It was the song list-cum-lyric sheet. His simple, one word command: "Sing!" See, how Rockeoke works is that you have a band (The Johnnies) playing, with the microphone in serious need of owning. You name the tune, you get the riff, you grab the mic. Magnifico!!

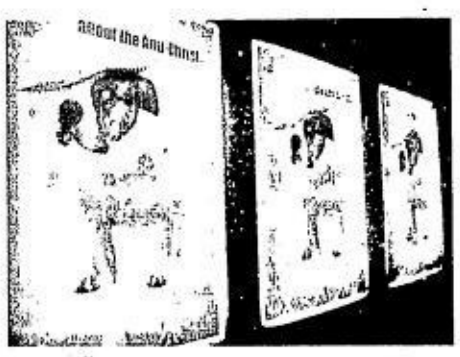
It's totally unlike your run-of-the-mill karaoke nights when you have to affix your eyes on the subtitles on a TV screen that shows scenes that have absolutely *nothing* to do with the song (ooh! A sunshine-yellow Labrador running through a field of daisies to the tune of Nine Inch Nails' "Closer"!) or even words that don't even attempt to vaguely resemble the actual lyrics. A few real-life examples of such mangled lyrics—from The Beatles: "All you bleed is blood, blood/ Blood is all you bleed." Or Pearl Jam: 'Jeremy's smokin' grass today!" And of course, karaoke mainstay Abba: "Dancing Queen/ Eat a bean from the tambourine! Ooh, eh?". And just because I'm on a (raken)roll, from Madness: "*Ahas*. In the middle of our street, *ahas!*"

No, Rockeoke is as close as you can get to living in a parallel universe where you're Bowie and the fans have stardust in their eyes.

On a side post-it note—if I may also offer any fly-on-the-wall observation about this city's night life, it's that you know you've struck gimmick gold when there are advertising agency creatives milling about. For I truly believe they form a big part of our society's hip meritocrats—intelligent, cool, and artistic types who aren't poseur or overly geeky. No overdramatic "jahe" characters here—everyone's surprisingly game to rock the mic.

Rx and Roll

So it was my turn. A friend and I started off extremely *baaaad* with a duet of The Cure's "Friday I'm in Love." Let's just say we made William Hung look like Sinatra. (In the distance, pins dropping could be heard among the cricket chirps after our performance.) Later on, though, no threat of shame or strait jackets could have prevented me from getting



Rx and roll to chase those Monday blues away

THE LINEUP: Ben Templesmith, Quark Henares, Mich Dulce, Nicky Daez and the Johnnies rock Mag Net.

'n' parole

Tals Diaz

up there again to "redeem" myself with Echo and the Bunnymen's "Killing Moon." Fuuun!!! Talk about teleporting back in time to better days when music still had cool lyrics!

Though I may be forever banned from stepping foot in Mag Net ever again, may I just reiterate how rock and roll is the greatest cure for any shit-uation. And Rockeoke proves it. Channeling dead rock stars in front of a live audience, even for a few minutes—it's the best therapy for chasing those Monday blues away. Of course, it helps, it helps *a lot* when you've got some Red Horse galloping in your bloodstream. It's what you do when you sing out of tune, after all—you get a little help from your friends. Next up: Ruthless guitar-smashing at the end of the show. Or the mall tour, whichever comes first.

JAKE that!

FULL NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND. Isabelle Ramos, Karen Kunawicz, Katrina Lagman, Mich Dulce, Jaime Daez, Miggy Matute

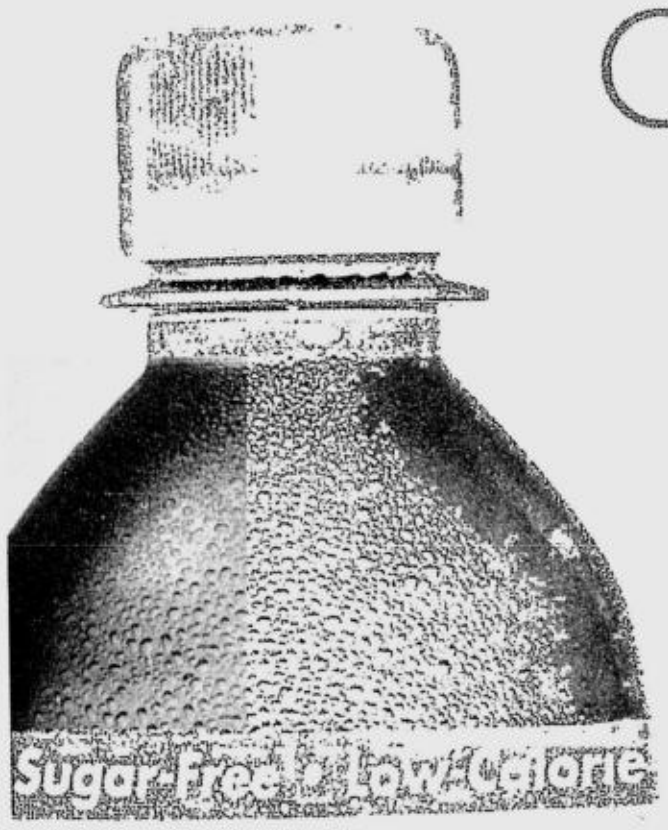
THE USUAL SUSPECTS. Tals Diaz, Rhea Llamas and Vanessa Balao

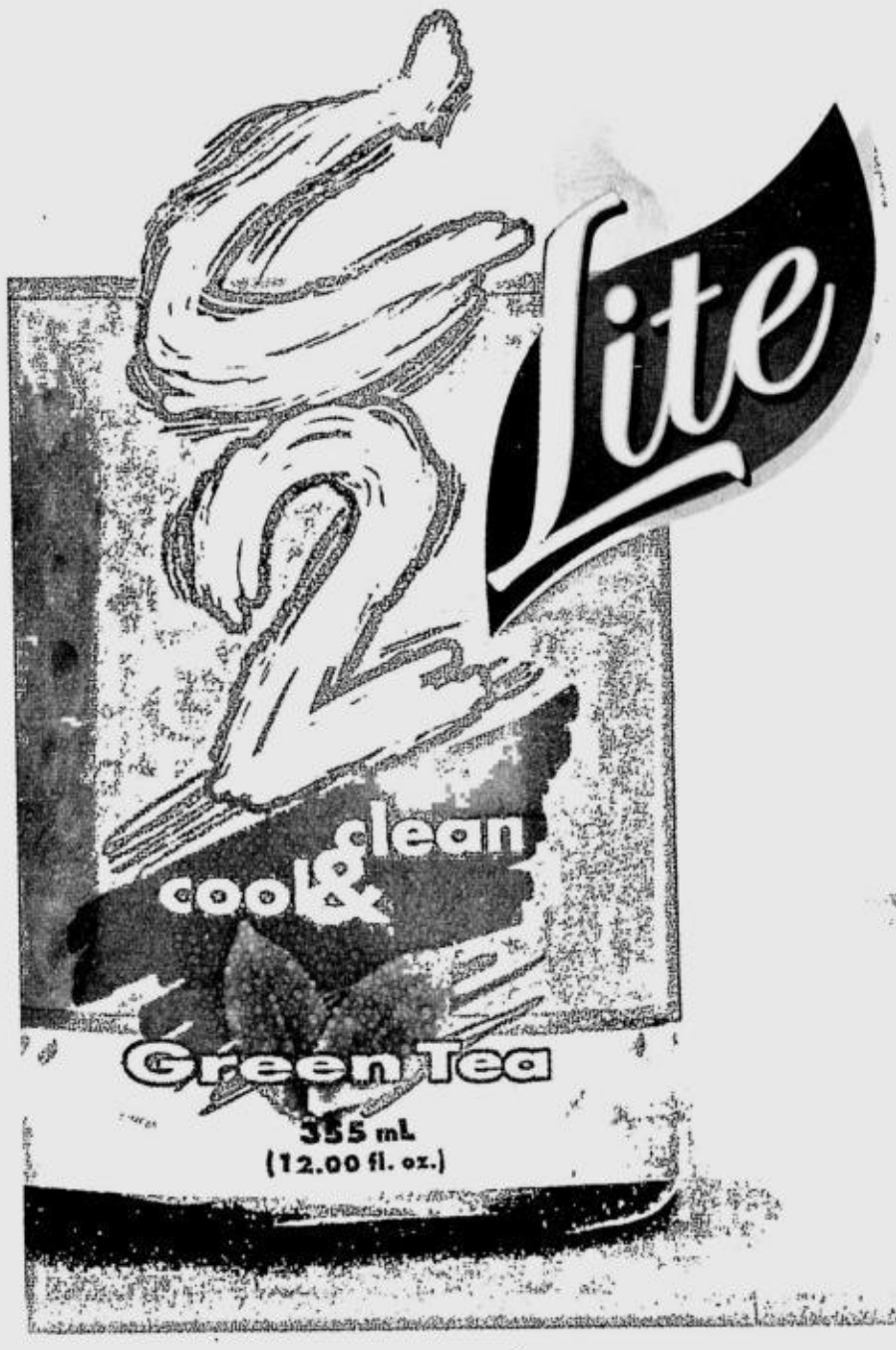
There's a saying that goes, "less is more."
That's exactly what goes into **C2 Lite**. It's your favorite C2 taste with less calories, no sugar, and yet complete with the goodness of green tea.

C2 Lite is brewed from natural green tea leaves, which are known for its powerful health benefits, like the following: it fights toxins, lowers cholesterol, boosts the immune system and speeds up the metabolism which helps the body burn up to 70 calories in just one day. It also stops the movement of glucose in fat cells, aiding your body further to lose the extra weight. All these, together with its low-calorie content and absence of sugar, allow you to keep your body trim and, most of all, healthy.

So give your body the goodness of green tea with less calories and no sugar. Find it in the delicious and healthy **C2 Lite**, the lite drink that gives you more.

THE GOODNESS OF GREEN TEA IS NOW SUGAR-FREE AND LOW-CALORIE.





THAI shrimp pizza

SHRIMP and spinach spaghetti

SUPER SELECTS

Crab me if you can!

WITH A NAME LIKE Crustasia one's mind is immediately filled with images of the freshest crabs sauteed, steamed, fried and enhanced flavorwise with anything from chili, black pepper, butter, ginger, the works! Crabs are definitely a no miss (the Crab Maritess is flavorful and a favorite for first time crab eaters) but there is lots more on the menu for those who want to jazz up their meal times. New soups and salads such as Cream of Durian (try it first and you'll see why it's becoming a bestseller), Oriental Duck and Lychee Salad, Eggplant Salad Stacks and Catfish in Thai Caesar Salad. If you're not in the mood for seafood there are meat and chicken dishes to try like the Thai Red Curry with Beef Tenderloin and Thai Yellow Curry with Chicken and Chorizo served with whole wheat soba noodles or whole wheat naan. Health conscious diners can choose from Grilled Squid Thai Style, Mixed Vegetables in Green Curry and Vietnamese Seafood and Vegetable Crepe. But wait, before you rush off to max out your gastronomic desires this weekend at Crustasia, remember you can also get adventurous and try Beef Medallions and Seared Foie Gras served with taro sticks and tamarind demiglaze or the Spicy Shrimps and Spinach Spaghetti. Crustasia just for crabs? Not anymore!

Crustasia currently has four branches in Metro Manila: Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center—728-5463, The Podium, Ortigas Center—631-3857, Trinoma Mall, North Triangle—901-3607 and Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center 772-2968.

WHITE pepper crab

THAI-style bouillabaise

Compaq recommends Windows Vista® Business.

intel Centrino Duo Core 2 Duo Inside

Max up your mobility.

This ultra-lightweight Compaq Presario V3618TU Notebook PC powered by the Intel® Centrino® Duo Processor Technology is just what you need for your mobile needs. Its large LCD expands your viewing pleasure whether you are working on your spreadsheets or playing your favorite game. And best of all, it comes at a price that's far from heavy to carry.

Enjoy with these accessories:

HP 12-cell battery

Longer battery life for more games, videos, music, and photo viewing without having to plug in your AC adapter.

HP 6-cell battery

This battery lets you keep doing what you're doing, plus it works in conjunction with your notebook to save energy.

Compaq Presario V3617TU Notebook PC
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- Intel® Pentium® Dual-Core Processor T2310* (1MB L2 Cache, 1.46GHz, 533MHz FSB)
- Free DOS
- Intel® Graphics Media Accelerator X3100
- 14.1-inch WXGA High Definition*
- Hard Drive 80 GB 5400 rpm
- SuperMulti 8X DVD+/-RW with Double Layer Support
- ExpressCard/54 slot
- 512MB
- High speed 56K modem
- Altec Lansing speakers

Compaq Presario V3618TU Notebook PC
SRP Php 52,950

- Intel® Centrino® Duo Processor Technology Intel® Core™2 Duo Processor T5250* (2MB L2 Cache, 1.5GHZ, 667MHz FSB)
- Genuine Windows Vista® Home Basic[1]
- Mobile Intel® GM965 chipset
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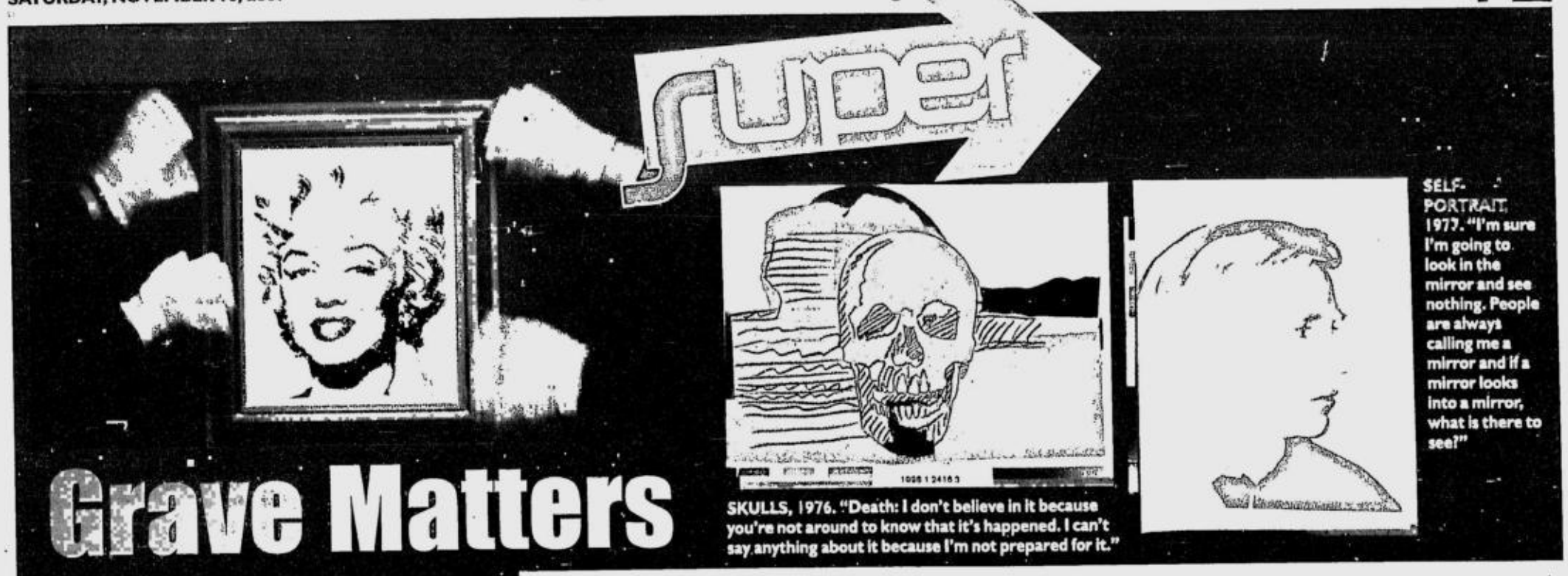


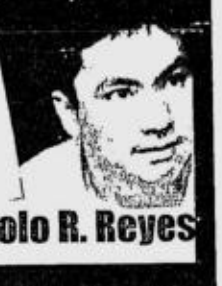
SKULLS, 1976. "Death: I don't believe in it because you're not around to know that it's happened. I can't say anything about it because I'm not prepared for it."

SELF-PORTRAIT, 1977. "I'm sure I'm going to look in the mirror and see nothing. People are always calling me a mirror and if a mirror looks into a mirror, what is there to see?"

Grave Matters

From dead movie stars to sinister skulls, Andy Warhol brings a touch of death to Pop Art at his 'Disaster Relics' exhibit in Prague

LOST IN TRANSIT



Paolo R. Reyes

HIGH ABOVE THE SOARing spires of Prague, on a hilly summit at the bend of the Vlatava River, a maze of medieval lanes converge at the 150-year-old Vysehrad Cemetery. Unlike most state cemeteries, there are no tombstones of star-studded generals or busts of bemedalled war heroes to speak of—only the creatively-sculpted memorials of artists, musicians, scientists, and writers.

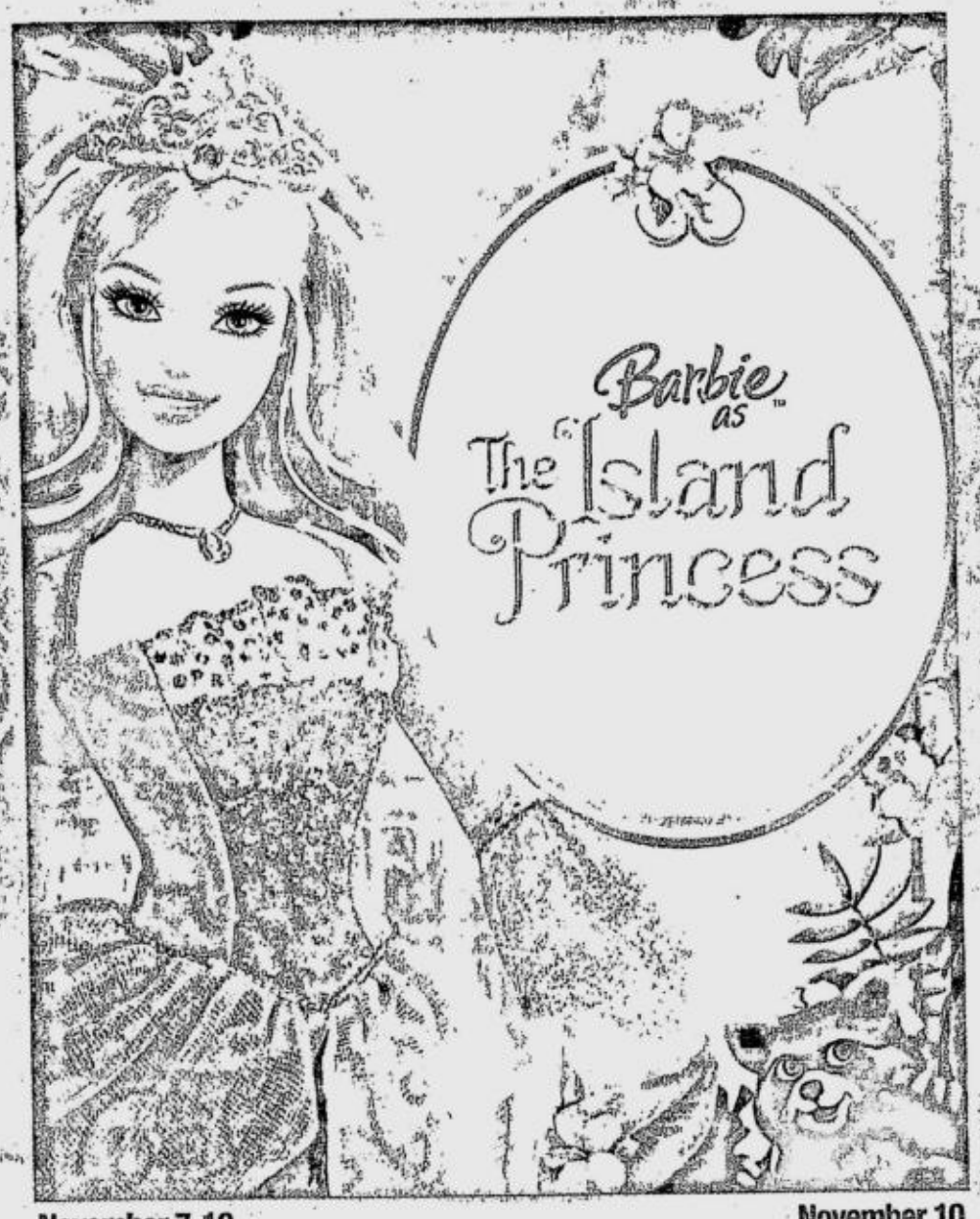
At the edge of these hallowed grounds is the imposing Slavin monument, the communal resting place of over 50 Czech artists, including Art Nouveau printmaker Alphonse Mucha, legendary composer Antonin Dvorak,

GRAVE/ E2

Album Launch
November 16 • The Block Atrium
An upbeat musical rendition of the newest cool sensation

Movie Launch
November 17 • The Block Atrium
Witness the bewitching moments and enjoy fairy-tale like activities.

A Grand Christmas Caroling by the Las Piñas Boys Choir
November 11 • The Block Atrium • 5pm



November 7-10
Fashion Styling
Merchandise Exhibit

The Block Atrium

November 10
Movie Trailer Preview
Fashion Show
Interactive Story-Telling

Relaxed Entertainment
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THE BLOCK
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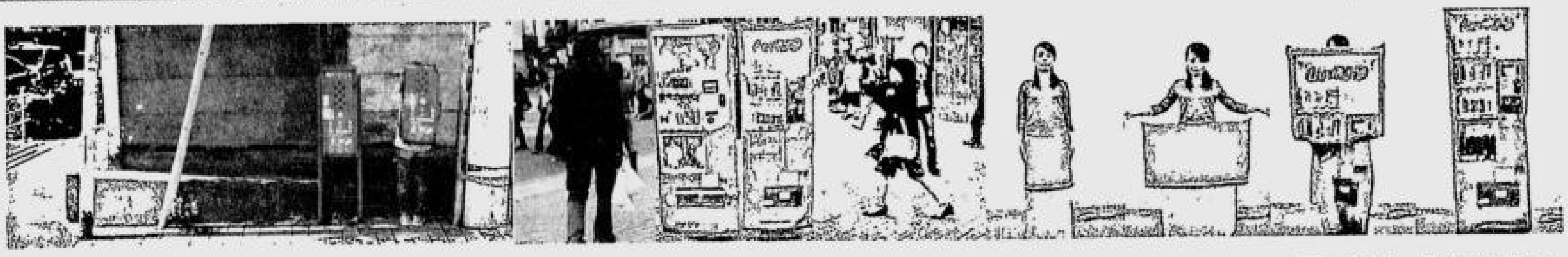
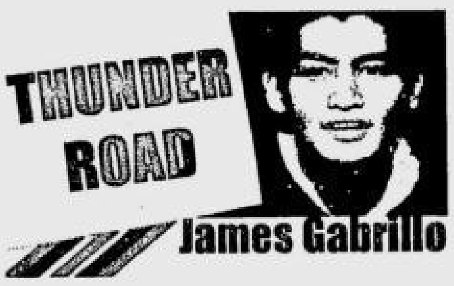


TOKYOMG: Ladies turn into vendo machines and kids into fire extinguishers. Yikes!

Who needs the police here?

"Then I saw for the first time the true beauty of Tokyo, and of all Japanese cities. They are only beautiful at night, when they become fairylands of gorgeous neon: towers and sheets and globes and rivers of neon, in stunning profusion, a wild razzle-dazzle of colors and shapes and movements, fierce and delicate, restrained and violent against the final afterglow of sunset."

–James Kirkup, These Horned Islands (1962)



WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT 12 million, Tokyo is one of the largest la-la lands in the world—and one of the most intriguing, exciting, and invigorating. People rush around here with such purpose and determination, it's hard not to feel that you're in the midst of something important.

Residing close to the city is almost a quarter of the country's whole population. This explains the incredible crush of citizens crowding the transpos and sidewalks from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m.

With colorful fruit stands, bonsai trees, tofu factories, and a load of rich, visual excess, Tokyo turns even New York, Ibiza, and Tondo (um) seem like yawnfest, chillaid-back towns.

Look beyond the aluminum

Tokyo has no center, rather it's made up of a series of small towns and neighborhoods clustered together, each with its own history, flavor, and atmosphere. Most streets in Tokyo zigzag—an arrangement apparently left over from the olden days to confuse potential attackers. Today they confuse Tokyoites and visitors alike.

After hours of wandering, I was a bit tormented by the unsettling feeling that I was somehow missing out on the "real" Tokyo. Later I discovered that the meaning of the city is out there, if only one knows where to look.

I learned that you couldn't judge Tokyo by what it looks on the outside, for it's a city of interiors. Even those concrete monsters may house interiors that are fascinating in design and innovation.

Cruise company Kopao tips off, "In the basement of a drab building could well be a restaurant with wooden beams, mud walls, and a thatched ceiling, imported intact from a farmhouse in the Japan Alps; on its roof could be a small Shinto shrine, while the top floor could house a high-tech bar or a sophisticated French restaurant."

Divide and conquer

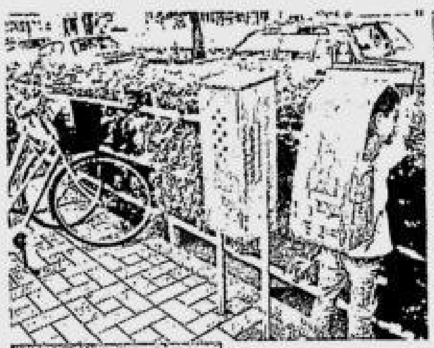
Tokyo is also a treasure trove of culinary surprises. A good deal of what I ate was completely new to me, as well as completely unidentifiable. No need to worry—often the Jap kidz themselves don't even know what they're eating, so varied and so wide is the range of available edibles. The rule is simple—to enjoy, and enjoyment begins even before you raise your chopsticks to your mouth.

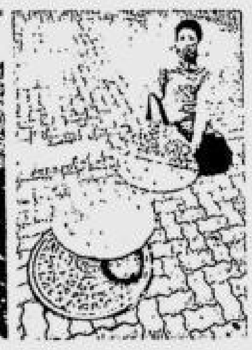
Taking the subway during the weekday morning rush hour from 8 to 9 a.m. is an adventure—the stories you've heard about commuters packed into trains like sardines are all true. There are even "platform pushers," men who push people into compartments so that the doors would close. If you want to witness Tokyo at its craziest, go to Shinjuku Station at 8:30 a.m.

Hello Kitschy

By global standards, Japan is one of the safest countries in the world, with a close-to-zero crime rate. But recently, a growing fear of misdemeanor has stirred its citizens, and its resident artists. Inspired by the ninja's aptitude to cloak himself under a black blanket, designer Aya Tsukioka recently showed off her latest creation that'll hide a person from the bad boys—a skirt that turns into a vending machine.

"These elaborate defenses come as crime rates are declining in Japan. But the Japanese, attuned to the slightest signs of social fraying, say they feel growing anxiety about safety, fanned by a sensationalist news media. But instead of pepper spray, the Japanese are devising a variety of novel solutions," writes Martin Fackler of The New York Times.





Living and breathing a squeaky, chinky clean crime-free Japan easily twirled into an adventure sustained by unhealthy doses of ramen and visits to the nearby Yoshinoya

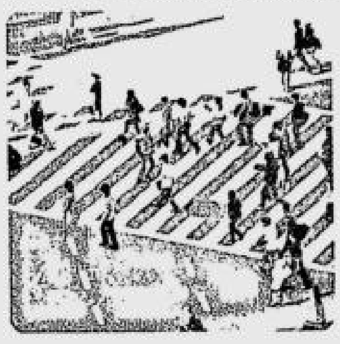
Also included on the list of the recently fashioned krazy creations are a fire extinguisher camo-costume for kids, a book for mothers by fashion historian Kaori Nakano on how to dress their kids as "pseudo-hoodlums" to protect them from bullying, supposedly a huge school dilemma in Japan (yes, really), and a purse that unfolds to be a manhole cover (so that you can throw it to the ground and deceive the robber with your lumpy cloth manhole cover thus keeping the contents safe inside). How bizarre, how bizarre.

Lost in fascination

Tokyo is extreme solitude for those without the keys, and you see them wandering here and there, isolated, doubting that their heads were full of idiotic dreams; you see them hypnotized by their isolation, their hands firmly grasping their backpacks, to suddenly take in what is exclusive to the Japanese city.

My most frustrating and at the same time most awesome moments in Tokyo occurred when I found that I was totally lost. It was on that subway and that train station, when all I saw were signs in Japanese, and on that random street as I searched for a museum.

I prefer the forbidden, the small recesses in the shadows, the dead-ends along the train tracks, the tiny areas full of arrogance, where I couldn't have gone alone because I couldn't have made it back. Back there is a small footpath that makes its way around houses, and at four in the morning, it's probably my favorite place in the world.



Grave Matters

From page E1

and playwright Karel Capek (the man who first coined the word "robot" in his 1921 play).

Covered in commemorative plaques and topped by a stone sarcophagus, the artistic luminaries of the country's checkered past are watched over by a winged creature representing Genius, who quietly hovers above the inscription: "Although they have died, they still speak."

Eloquent epitaph

Making my way out of the cemetery's wrought iron gate and into a narrow lane littered with the tungsten-tinted leaves of fall, I realized that reading that eloquent epitaph was a good way to end a week-long stay in the Bohemian capital; a drizzly, overcast day that unexpectedly ended with a visit to Andy Warhol's "Disaster Relics" exhibit at the Kampa Museum.

Famous for churning out silk screens of Coca-Cola bottles, Campbell's cans, and colorized portraits of celebrities like Marilyn Monroe, Warhol became the white-wigged prince of pop art in the 1960s. The son of conservative Czech immigrants, Warhol became hugely successful in the intertwined worlds of art and advertising.

In his silver-walled New York studio, The Factory, the celebrity-obsessed aesthete immortalized tyrants and tycoons, rock stars and screen sirens, designers and drag queens, and more than a few freaks with his iconic portraits.

Though he was crucified by the critics of his generation, Warhol is now an auction house favorite, and the world's second-highest-grossing artist after Pablo Picasso. New-moneyed Russian oligarchs and oil-rich Arab sheikhs have already hoarded entire collections of his work, reportedly for princely sums amounting to over $1 billion. (Not bad for someone who had an army of assistants to mass-produce "authentic" reproductions of his works.)

Disbelief and detachment

Echoing his morbid fascination with personal tragedy and death, the 20 selected prints on display at "Disaster Relics" expressed his lifelong interest in the human capacity to turn awful events into a source of voyeuristic pleasure, mixing disbelief and detachment.

Created between 1963 and 1964, the images form a series of silk screen prints that reproduce newspaper photographs of car crashes, airplane accidents, and suicides. (He also addresses political issues of the '60s, including the US race riots and the highly publicized assassination of John F. Kennedy.)

JACQUELINE Kennedy II, undated. "I'd been thrilled having Kennedy as President; he was handsome, young, smart—but it didn't bother me that much that he was dead. What bothered me was the way the television and radio were programming everybody to feel so sad."

Though his original inspiration for the "Disaster" series was a front page announcement of an airplane crash, he had already begun painting his famous "Marilyns," which made him realize that everything he was doing was about death: "It was Christmas or Labor Day—a holiday—and every time you turned on the radio they said something like, '4 million are going to die.' That started it."

The artist's obsession with death is often ascribed to a childhood illness that left him bedridden for months, which also caused the blotchiness in his skin in later years. Many also believe that a failed assassination attempt in 1968, which he narrowly survived, also helped fuel his hypochondria and well-known fear of hospitals and doctors.

An interesting element to the exhibit was the inclusion of Warhol quotes below each print. The combination of words and pictures made the exhibit a thought-provoking introduction to these infrequently exhibited images. The most memorable were those of Marilyn Monroe, Chairman Mao, Jacqueline Kennedy, and Elvis Presley (posing as a cowboy with a gun in hand). Beneath the Elvis portrait was the Warhol quote: "Before I was shot, I always thought that I was more half there than all there."

Impersonal art

According to The Prague Post, "Disaster Relics" was one of the most crowded exhibits the city has witnessed in a long time. Some might think it a little strange, all this fuss over dead movie stars and miscellaneous images of death and violence. Is it the world's increasing fascination with Warhol? Or is it simply everyone's curious interest in gruesome subject matter? It's probably a bit of both.

In an interview with BBC in 1981, Warhol was asked if his often-expressed desire to become a machine had any truth to it. His answer was a resolute "yes." All he wanted to do, he told the reporter, was to churn out as many pictures as possible, a thousand or more a day. His greatest pleasure was to "do the same thing over and over again," be it a can of soup or a colorized portrait.

During the time, such statements from the Prince of Pop had become as proverbial as his prophetic claim about 15 minutes of fame. They stood for the ethos of the so-called Warhol Factory: where mechanical reproduction was preferred to individual gesture, where commercial advertisements were as worthy as serious paintings, and where art was created to simply "facilitate an emptying of oneself of all thought and feeling."

Man of his moment

Was Warhol a cynic perpetuating a persona that had earned him fame and fortune since the '60s? Or was he betraying an unspeakable trauma when he observed that his highest goal in life was to just "get by"? His death during minor surgery in 1987 only added to his perplexing identity. Many saw this medical accident as an appropriately bizarre conclusion to his life.

Those who reviled Warhol's naked commercialism hoped that his physical demise would also mark the beginning of his critical decline. Yet there were also those who saw him as the quintessential man of his moment, whose brand of Pop Art had a value that had yet to be recognized.

Perhaps the same can be said of most trailblazing artists, whose seemingly offbeat contributions were only regarded as masterpieces years after their death. Warhol may have been born a generation too late to be buried at the hallowed grounds of Vysehrad, but he definitely deserves a spot under the watchful gaze of the winged Genius.

Stealing beauty

Caravaggio may have died as a persecuted outlaw, but the legacy of his art continues to remind would-be collectors that art is not valued on the obnoxious price tags attached to them

Caravaggio

By Juana R. Manahan

LONG BEFORE MUSEUM WALLS BEcame a place of prominence, or the space of a white cube consecrated as a hallowed territory, many forget that the highest forms of art have the humblest beginnings.

Artists sold art as a means to live, then perhaps to gain a bit of fame along the way. Formal art schools were reserved for wealthier, more genteel artists. Renaissance writer Giorgio Vasari once said that a true artist should be impeccably dressed, as painting with oil was a delicate task, where one painted with poise, grace and cleanliness.

However, not all artists had the same gracious start to their careers. Let us consider Caravaggio. Ask any one who has mildly paid attention to art history classes and they will almost mouth off that Caravaggio was the master of chiaroscuro.

Poor Caravaggio's fame came 300 years after his death. In his life, Caravaggio spent his free time painting, using real models from the street and painting scenes from everyday life. He spent his not-so-free time repeatedly being arrested and imprisoned. He confessed to the murder of an opponent in tennis, whom he had accused of cheating, and was placed in jail (for what we would term these days as pedophilia) and eventually died a persecuted outlaw. Caravaggio found many enemies through his paintings, which at the time were considered offensive, prompting Nicolas Poussin, who arrived shortly after Caravaggio's death, to say, "He came to destroy painting."

The little anecdote on Caravaggio is to remind would-be collectors that art is not valued on the price tag that dealers, or in some cases the artists , attach to them. To find real art in a painting is to find something that strikes an emotion in you, even if it doesn't matter to anyone else. Obnoxiously priced paintings, with very little talent to go along with it, is what turns off many people from stepping into a gallery and mustering the courage to ask "what does this mean?," only to be greeted by the gallery assistant's blank stare.

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Trickie Colayco-Lopa and Lisa Ongpin-Periquet are two women who had enjoyed looking at art abroad with no boundaries. Now on its third year, these ladies are bringing back the country's affordable art fair, Art in the Park, to Salcedo Park next Saturday. Several galleries and distinguished artists are participating in the fair, including 13 artists awardees such as Brenda Fajardo, Alfredo Esquillo, Karen Flores, Manny Garibay, and Mark Justiniani. Art Informal and Nineveh Gallery will also be participating.

Distinguished artists such as Mario de Rivera, Ral Arrogante, Lawrence Borsoto, Anthony Palomo, and newer artists Joseph Banez and Jaspher Penuliar will have works on display. All works are priced under P20,000, ensuring first time buyers a guiltless spree, and collectors to find a bargain. Art collectors and those expressing their first interests in art are free to enjoy the works in the park. To complete the laid back lazy daisy attitude of the fair, a jazz band led by Junji Lerma awaits to serenade passersby on this artfull Saturday.

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BILIBID OR NOT!

The *LAYA Concert in Maximum Security Bilibid Prison

By Andy Maluche

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Lit up on stage at a covered gym inside the compound, the "*LAYA!—Freedom Within!"* Concert opened with inmate rock band The Freesons, backed up by talented inmate dance groups The Megamix Dancers and The Vikings. Guest performers included LoveCore, Classified Odds, Nityalila, Chat Uy, Chris Martinez, Miko Pepito, Io Calumpang, Gio Respall, PJ Gurnamal, Ricky Quiogue, Puey Quinones, Melvin Mojica, and the Martinez Sisters.

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Event hours: 10:00AM - 7:00PM
Venue: SMX Convention Center Exhibit Hall 1, Seashell Drive, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City
For more information, call EXPO Hotline 750-9456
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ADB Avenue cor. Opal Road
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. 706-0055 Fax 635-2969
www.quantumsuites.com

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

La Union Country Resort Hotel, Inc.
Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union Phil.
Tel. (072)242-5621
Fax. (072) 242-5631
www.oasiscountryresort.com
oasis@sflu.com

Oxford Suites Makati Hotel
Durban cor P. Burgos Streets, Makati City
Tel. 899 7888 Fax: 899 6891
www.oxfordsuitesmakati.com

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parqueespana@hil.com.ph
www.hospitalityinc.com.ph/parque

The Pearl Manila Hotel
General Luna Street cor. Taft & UN Ave. 1000 Ermita, Manila
Tel. 400-00-88 Fax: 400-00-77

Renaissance Makati City Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Richmonde Hotel
21 San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel.638-7777 Fax 638-8567
trh@richmondehotel.com.ph
www.richmondehotel.com

Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Tel. 243-2222 / Fax 243-0852
www.subichotel.com

The Sulo Hotel
Matalino Road, Diliman, Quezon City
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frontoffice@sulohotel.com.ph
www.sulohotel.com.ph

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
taalvista@fuegohotels.com

White Rock Hotel
Bo. Matain, Subic Zambales
Tel. 421 - 2781-82
(047) - 232 - 2857

Christmas treats from Deli Snack of The Century Park Hotel

TAKE THE HASSLE OUT IN THINKING what's the best gift to send this holiday. Let your family, friends, and business associates experience a delightful taste of home with Deli Snack's Christmas treats. Bring home some famous international gourmets of pastry chef Romy Reodique's finest cake selections, assorted cookies, and freshly baked Danish pastries. Of course, a holiday table will not be complete without the traditional Christmas ham. Be sure to try the award-winning Century ham with mountain honey (P850/kg) and hackfleish (P770/kg) of butcher master Teddy Barro, famous for its succulent, tasty, and tender taste. Duck, pork, calf, and chicken pates are also available to add a zestful flavor to any plain bread. Santa's favorite carvings such as whole roasted turkey (P1,400) or boneless roasted turkey (P1,650), other delicatessen favorites, authentic wine selections, party platters, chocolates, and fruit cakes are also available. For a luxurious appreciation gift that will surely delight, try the holiday hamper (P5,450) and yuletide treat hamper (P4,850), or arrange a tailor-made hamper according to your specifications.

Send your warmest thoughts and wishes this Christmas to special people in your heart. Choose from Deli Snack's festive and indulgent gift choices that suit any one's fancy.

For inquiries or reservations, please call 528-5855 or 528-8888.

European Wild Game Festival at The Tivoli

AT THE ADVENT OF THE hunting season in Europe, Mandarin Oriental's signature fine-dining restaurant The Tivoli, together with Qatar Airways, brings to the table once again the exquisite wild game creations of celebrated Austrian chef Fritz Buergler of the famed Salzburg-based speciality restaurant Zum Bierfuehrer. From Nov. 23 to Dec. 9, an enticing showcase of game food offerings traditionally served during this insatiable season will be offered in a special menu.

An accomplished veteran of several culinary competitions around the world, chef Buergler is chef/owner of a charming countryside inn with a 180-seater restaurant, Zum Bierfuehrer, which has achieved numerous national and international accolades for its unique and splendid cuisine and remarkable wine cellar. He attributes his taste for wild game specialities to his close family ties with the zealous hunters of Salzburg.

Chef Buergler's astounding creations of traditional wild game dishes include: Aspic of young boar with autumn leaves and pumpkin seed oil; Piquant chamois soup with root vegetables and slivers of farmers bread; Deer loin steak on juniper berry cream with cep mushrooms, croquette potatoes, broccoli and braised red cabbage; Venison ragout with creamed forest mushrooms served with herbed spaetzle, cranberries and braised red cabbage; Soy and ginger marinated emince of venison; Pan-fried pheasant breast in rosemary jus; Gulash of deer with bacon and lentils, bread dumplings and a bouquet of lettuces; Pink roasted hare loin with pink peppercorn in portwine sauce; Chestnut soufflé with wine sabayon; among others.

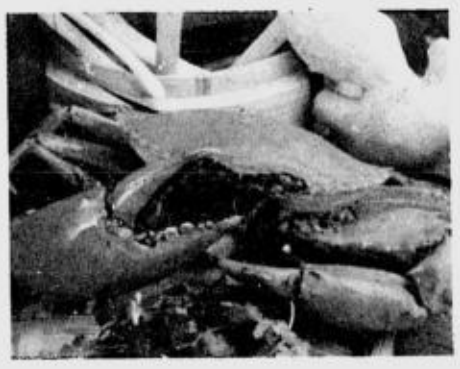
A special a la carte menu featuring chef Buergler's tempting entreés shall be offered for lunch, Monday to Friday and daily, for dinner. For reservations and enquiries, call The Tivoli at 750-8888 extension 2431/2433.

CHEF Fritz Buergler

Peony Garden's 'Best of the Best'

MANILA PAVILION HOTEL PRESENTS chef Lee specials "Best of the Best". Peony Garden's master chef serves seven supreme dishes from his long list of culinary greats this whole month of November.

Find out for yourself why these dishes are labeled as the best among chef Lee's signature creations: Thai Shan Fried Chicken; Braised Crab Malaysian Style; Crispy Pork Belly with Makee Sauce; Fried Rice Taro with Long Beans; Kham Sha Prawn; Deep-fried Prawn breaded with Noodles and Sautéed sliced Beef with Fresh Pineapple.



Servings are meant for sharing and they come in small, medium and large sizes. Peony Garden is open daily. Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. while dinner is at 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

You may choose among our three private rooms for that particular occasion: Peach - for a group of 10 persons, Lotus - for a group of 12 and Sunflower - for a group of 15 persons.

For inquiries and reservations, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extension 2503 and 2303.

Mey Lin's new spot at SM Mall of Asia

MEY LIN POT & NOODLE House moved to a new location just beside Hypermart at the North Parking Building of SM Mall of Asia.

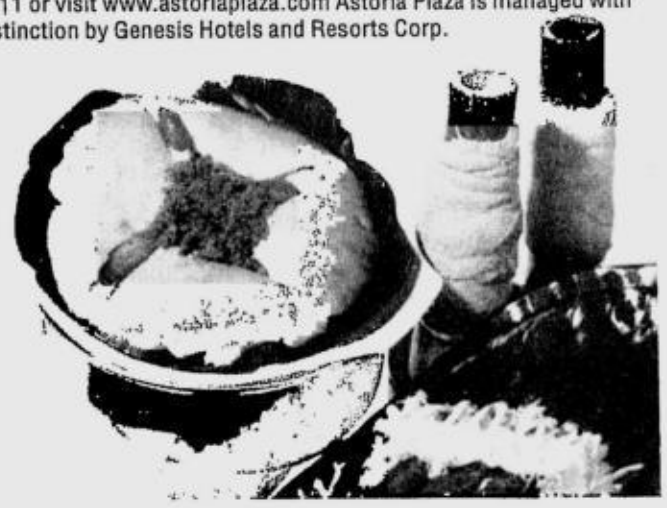
Best known for its hand-pulled noodles, Mey Lin serves quick orders of steaming hot bowls of 37 hand-pulled noodle varieties like Seafood Noodles, Ansio Beef, Wanton and Vegetarian among others. Complement your favorite noodles or have it your way with Dimsum delights such as siopao, siomai, steamed dumplings, fresh lumpia and more.

Enjoy authentic Chinese specialties cooked home-style. Or you may want to try other well-liked specialties such as Beancurd with 3 kinds of Mushrooms, 3-Cups Chicken, Fukien Congee, Adobo Rice and others. At Mey Lin Pot & Noodle House, each visit can be a scrumptiously unique taste experience. You'll never run out of choices with more than a hundred dish varieties of noodles, vegetables, appetizers, meat, seafood, soup, congee and rice toppings.

Mey-Lin at SM Mall of Asia offers all day dining from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call 556-0818 or 556-0828 for inquiries. You may also visit the other Mey Lin branches at SM Megamall Level 4 Bldg.A, SM Manila Basement Level; G/F Jupiter Place, Jupiter Street, Bel-Air Makati and at Mey Lin Adriatico at 1717 Adriatico Street, Malate, Manila.

Christmas treats Pinoy style at Astoria Plaza

ASTORIA PLAZA CONTINUES TO BRING GOOD WARMTH AND good cheer with its Christmas treats Pinoy style. Savor the taste of Café Astoria's traditional creamy Bibingka and sinfully irresistible Puto Bungbong served oven fresh with a heavenly cup of hot chocolate or coffee. Available at the hotel lobby daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until Dec. 31. Astoria Plaza is located at #15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries and reservations call 687-1111 or visit www.astoriaplaza.com Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts Corp.



THE COFFEE BEAN OPENS NEWEST BRANCH

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf opened it's newest branch at Level 2, East Wing, Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Store opens from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight. Experience the goodness of freshly brewed coffee, whole leaf teas and cool Ice Blended drinks.

Conway's Bar
813 8888 ext. 7026

Mey Lin Pot & Noodle House
899 6688 / 899 8999

Tony Roma's Restaurants
757 1926 / 771 1388

Island Foot & Body Wellness
899 1234 / 751 8296

Cafe Mediterranean
Greenbelt
894-4032

Bo's Coffee Club

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

Causeway Seafood Restaurant
24 Timog Ave, Q.C.
376-2559

Clawdaddy Crabhouse and American Grill
636-5679

Heaven 'n Eggs
(02) 818-2792
(02) 889-3791

Kalye Juan
0920-94-kalye

Sushi-Ya
0917-84-sushi

Tong Yang Shabu-Shabu & BBQ Restaurant
899 3388 / 897 4148

Palaisdaan Restaurant
Barangay Dapdap, Tayabas, Quezon
(042) 793-3529

Lola Maria Coffeeshop
60 Pioneer St.
Mandaluyong City
633-1501 to 10

FJ's Grill
24 Timog Ave, Q.C.
376-2559

The Old Spaghetti House
687-6630

North Park
73737

MUSEUM CAFÉ
Ayala Museum, Greenbelt 4
757-3000
757-6000

Finio Restaurant
415-1278

Kopiroti Davao
(082)3016009

Chelsea Market & Cafe
909-7011
909-7012

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

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NOW SHOWING

Cruise, Streep spark screen magic in Redford's political drama

STREEP AND CRUISE. Play hard-edged journalist and charismatic senator, respectively, in "Lions for Lambs."

By Rito P. Asilo

"Lions for Lambs"
D: Robert Redford
S: Robert Redford, Meryl Streep and Tom Cruise

IN ROBERT REDFORD'S FIRST DIRECTOrial effort since 2000's "The Legend of Bagger Vance," the actor-filmmaker aims to break the pervading apathy and detachment of today's youth by presenting a story about strangers interconnected by one incident that changes the course of the lives of two university students:

Inspired by the idealism of their California university professor, Dr. Stephen Malley (played by Redford), Arian Finch (Derek Luke) and Ernest Rodriguez (Michael Peña) decide to enlist as volunteer soldiers in America's war against terrorism in Afghanistan. Soon, however, the uncompromising brutality of war dawns on Arian and Ernest.

REDFORD. Reveals his politics in latest movie.

Somewhere in Washington, a different kind of battle threatens to erupt in the office of ambitious Senator Jasper Irving (Tom Cruise) after the charismatic presidential hopeful offers hard-edged journalist, Janine Roth (Meryl Streep), an exclusive story about America's policy on its rules of engagement—that could affect the fates of Malley's former students.

As Finch and Rodriguez fight for their lives, Dr. Malley struggles to reach out to Todd Hayes (Andrew Garfield), a brilliant but unaffected student.

Redford presents these stories in disparate scenes that can be interpreted individually, but are more powerful when taken in their more encompassing, thematically

CRUISE/ F3

MONROE. Is she really the quintessential victim of life, glamour and ambition she's pictured to be?

Mysterious death sustains Marilyn Monroe's enigma

By Behn Cervantes

SHE WAS BORN NORMA JEAN Mortensen on June 1, 1926. She never knew her father—a film executive who had an affair with her mentally disturbed mother, Gladys. She was later reinvented as Marilyn Monroe, later described by Elsa Maxwell as "the most exciting girl in the world!"

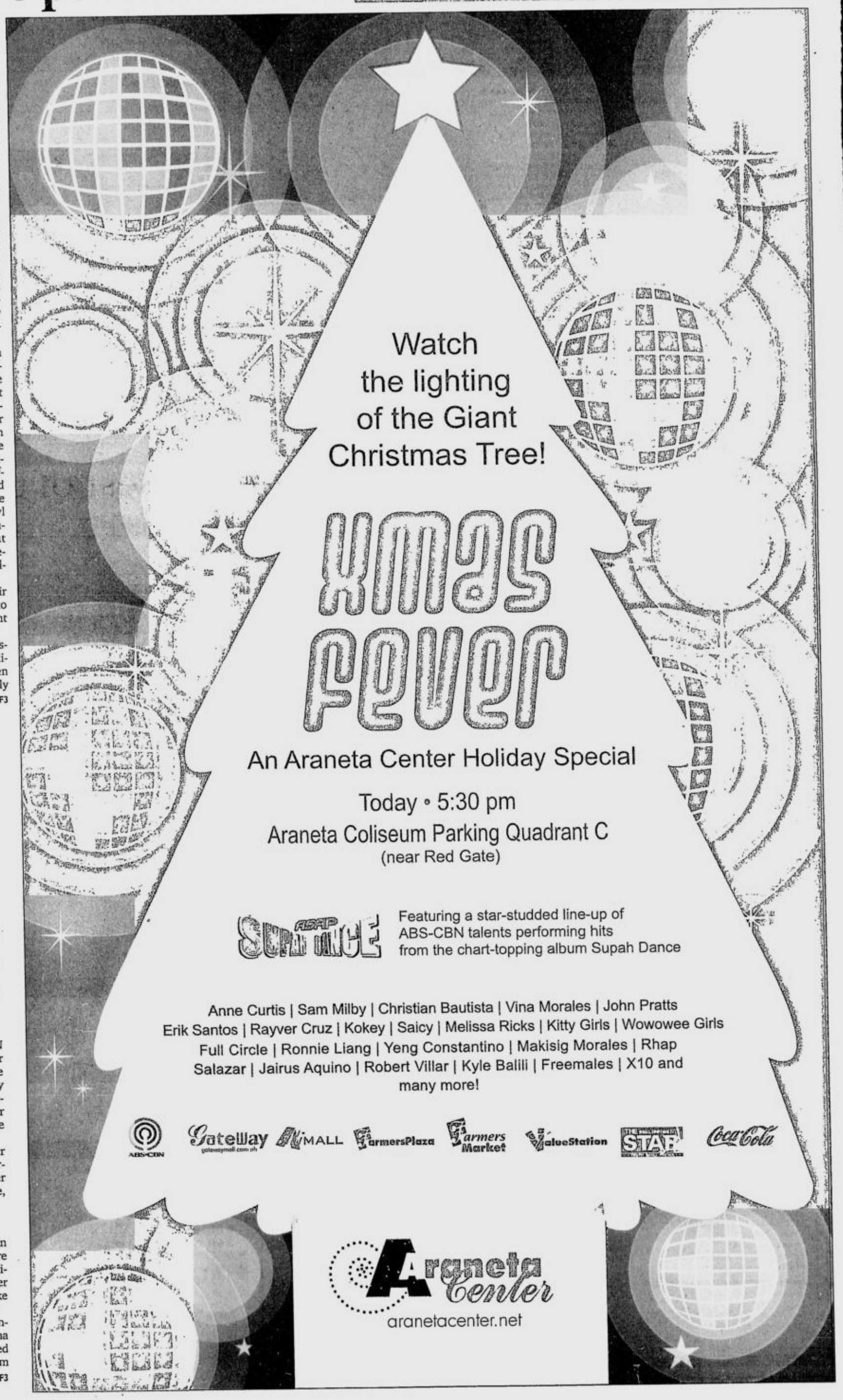
Norma Jean apparently led a rather prosaic life as a young girl in California. Why then does the world consider her the quintessential victim of life, glamour and ambition?

Foster homes

When young Norma Jean was left in foster homes, the circumstances were far less dramatic than Hollywood publicists pictured them to be. The girl's foster mother declared, "We treated her like our own child, because we loved her!"

Hollywood however, endowed Monroe's beginnings with soap-opera drama and irony. The world, therefore, assumed that this sex kitten was a pitiable victim

MYSTERIOUS/ F3



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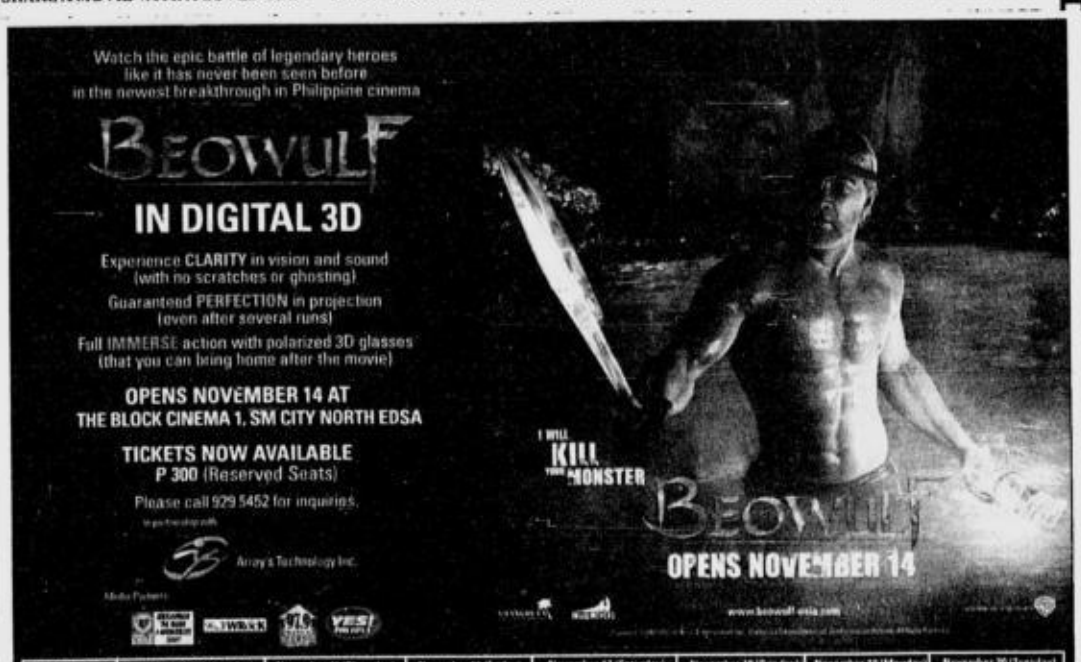

SCREENING TIME	November 14 (Wednesday)	November 15 (Thursday)	November 16 (Friday)	November 17 (Saturday)	November 18 (Sunday)	November 19 (Monday)	November 20 (Tuesday)
10:30 A.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
1:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
4:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
7:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
10:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Note: Screening schedule and seat availability subject to change without prior notice.

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

IMAX

DEEP SEA 3D — Admission Price: P250 — 11:00 PM • 3:30 PM • 6:00 PM • 7:30 PM • 9:00 PM
T-REX 3D — Admission Price: P250 — 12:30 PM • 2:00 PM
SPACE STATION — Admission Price: P200 — 5:00 PM

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 EL CANTANTE
6 ATAUL FOR RENT/CARTOON NETWORK

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1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 EL CANTANTE
3 RESERVED
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 LIONS FOR LAMBS
8 WE OWN THE NIGHT
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 BALLS OF FURY
11 ATAUL FOR RENT/CARTOON NETWORK
12 GHOST SON

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 RESERVED
5 GHOST SON
6 LIONS FOR LAMBS
7 ATAUL FOR RENT/CARTOON NETWORK
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 HIDE & SEEK
10 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
11 STARDUST
12 EL CANTANTE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5 STARDUST
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
10 HALLOWEEN
11 EL CANTANTE
12 CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 11TH HOUR
3 EL CANTANTE
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT/HALLOWEEN
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 ATAUL FOR RENT/CARTOON NETWORK
9 BALLS OF FURY
10 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 EL CANTANTE
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 THE GAME PLAN
6 BALLS OF FURY
7 GHOST SON
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 ATAUL FOR RENT/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 THE GAME PLAN
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 HIDE & SEEK
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

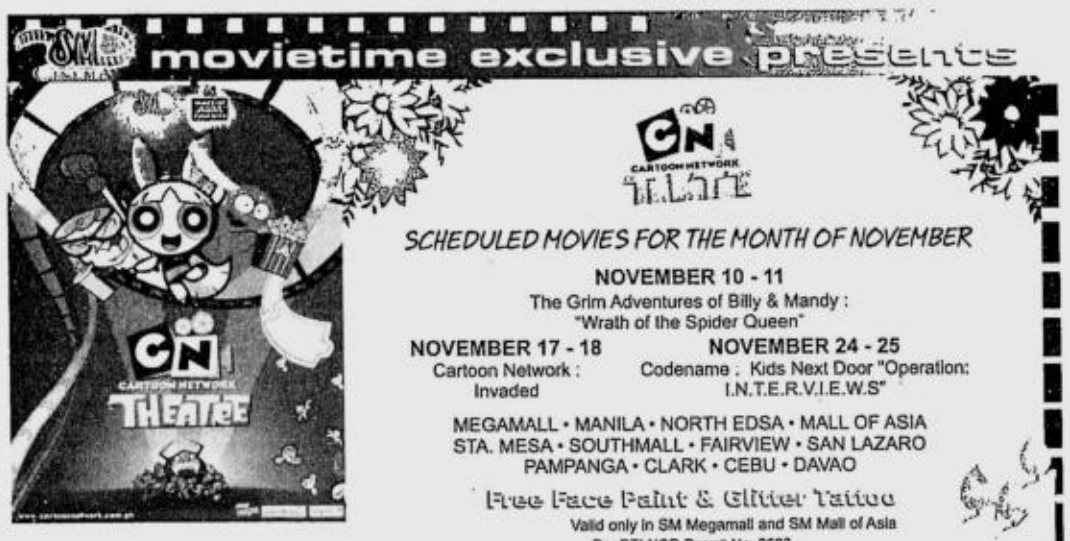
1 THE GAME PLAN
2 LIONS FOR LAMBS
3 ATAUL FOR RENT/ CARTOON NETWORK
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 RESERVED
7 EL CANTANTE
8 HALLOWEEN
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 GHOST SON
11 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12 BALLS OF FURY

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 HALLOWEEN
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 BALLS OF FURY/HALLOWEEN
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 ATAUL FOR RENT/ CARTOON NETWORK
5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
6 HIDE AND SEEK



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LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 THE SEEKER: HIDE & SEEK
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HALLOWEEN
4 HIDE AND SEEK
5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
6 UNREST
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 ATAUL FOR RENT
9 BALLS OF FURY

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 STARDUST
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 GHOST SON
2 HALLOWEEN
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 UNREST

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 UNREST
4 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 UNREST
4 RETRIBUTION

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9037081-85

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 ATAUL FOR RENT
4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT/ CARTOON NETWORK
6 HIDE & SEEK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811

1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 HIDE & SEEK
4 RETRIBUTION

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RETRIBUTION
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT/ CARTOON NETWORK
5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY TAYTAY 286-2502 to 04

1 THE GAME PLAN
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 ATAUL FOR RENT

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 STARDUST
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 CARTOON NETWORK
6 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 DECEMBER BOYS/ THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 UNREST
2 HALLOWEEN
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 STARDUST
6 EVENING
7 RESERVED
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 HIGHLANDER V
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 HALLOWEEN
6 KUNG FU FIGHTER
7 HIDE & SEEK
8 STARDUST/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 RETRIBUTION
4 HIDE AND SEEK

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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1 LIONS for LAMBS • THX — 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 GAME PLAN — 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 EL CANTANTE — 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 GHOST SON — 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
5 WE OWN THE NIGHT — 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 ATAUL for RENT — 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
7 30 DAYS of NIGHT / BALLS of FURY — 1:00 3:20 5:40 7:55 10:00
8 indieSine: 2 MINUTES LATER — 1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30
9 HIDE and SEEK — 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
10 LUST CAUTION — 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT — 12:35 3:00 5:35 8:00 10:00
2 ATAUL for RENT — 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 30 DAYS of NIGHT — 12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00
4 GHOST SON — 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
5 BALLS of FURY — 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
6 LUST CAUTION — 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
7 HIDE and SEEK — 12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00
1 EL CANTANTE — 12:35 3:00 5:25 8:00 10:00
2 GAME PLAN — 12:35 3:55 5:15 7:35 10:00
3 LIONS for LAMBS — 12:45 3:05 5:25 7:45 10:00

Midtown

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Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 BALLS of FURY / 30 DAYS of NIGHT — 12:10 2:00 4:00 6:30 9:00
2 GHOST SON — 12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00
3 GAME PLAN — 10:45 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05
4 EL CANTANTE — 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05
5 LUST CAUTION — 11:20 2:30 5:40 9:00
6 HIDE and SEEK — 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT — 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
8 ATAUL for RENT — 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 GAME PLAN
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
4 HIDE and SEEK

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-6378

1 EL CANTANTE
2 GAME PLAN
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

STA. ROSA

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1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 HALLOWEEN
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 HIDE and SEEK

LIPA

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1 UNREST
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 RETRIBUTION

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 UNREST
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A FILM BY SOCKIE FERNANDEZ

GULONG is a moving love story of a couple separated by time, who find themselves together again in the sunset of their lives. It is about friendship, love and life. The story is told from the point of view of Apao, a smart, kindhearted boy whose quest for an old bicycle reveals the stuff he is made of.

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MTRCB Rating: G

Cruise...

From page F1

cohesive context.

In Afghanistan, as Arian and Ernest contemplate their fate, bullets and bombs explode around them. But, the verbal tussle that takes place between the 57-year-old journalist and the 45-year-old solon are no less brutal. With their words, Redford presents the confounding moral issues that we face on a daily basis.

Cruise and Streep spark screen magic as they trade thespic barbs in roles that fit them to a T. Surprisingly, the former holds his own against the formidable actress, who delivers another head-turning performance as a journalist torn between choosing what's right and what's good for her career.

Redford himself delivers a fine turn, but his scenes are not as scorchingly showy as those between Streep and Cruise.

But, it's Redford, the director, who raises the difficult and more relevant questions for the film's viewers: Is it better to do what's right knowing you may end up failing? Or, are you content with maneuvering your political and moral principles "just around the edges of the flame"?

Theodore Roosevelt once had to answer this intriguing question: If you were to choose between righteousness and peace, which would you choose? He chose the former—but, would you do the same?

STREEP AND CRUISE. Confounding moral issues.

YORAC. Principles and friendship.

DELA CRUZ. Love of performance.

BERNAL. A book on the esteemed filmmaker.

TINIO. Judicious mentoring and enthusiastic support.

MANAHAN. Spontaneity and inventiveness.

Departed artists fondly remembered

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST ALL SOULS' DAY, WE spent some prayerful moments fondly remembering our dear departed friends and colleagues, led by the effervescent and totally original **Elvira Manahan**.

We recalled Elvira's flair for making an "ordinary" day special with her spontaneity, inventiveness, love for people—and signature laughter!

Resolution

We prayed that **Nida Blanca** would finally, genuinely be able to rest in peace with the resolution of her shocking murder.

To National Artists **Bert Avellana** and **Rolando Tinio**, we expressed our gratitude for the judicious mentoring and enthusiastic support they gave us as we started getting involved in media and the performing arts.

To **Katy dela Cruz** and **Bayani Casimiro**, we said thanks for the lessons they taught us about love of performance and audience, which they had learned in the halcyon days of Philippine vaudeville.

We vowed to **Ishmael Bernal** to once again motivate "our mutual friend" to finally come out with his long-awaited book on the esteemed film director. Dear friend, you know who you are!

We said a fervent prayer for dear **Haydee Yorac**, whose principles and friendship inspire us to this day.

For **Manuel Pichel** and **Pio de Castro III**, we thought us a plan to appropriately showcase the extensive libraries they left behind.

We thanked **Rita Gomez** for her larger-than-life performances and warm friendship.

Special prayer

For **Doreen Fernandez**, we said a special prayer, and we thanked her for quietly boosting and helping us make our mark in the different fields in which we worked together.

We also expressed our gratitude to **Ruben Rustia** for his excellent but under-recognized portrayals, and pledged to do our best to remind people of their exceptional quality.

Ditto for **Vic Silayan**, **Atang dela Rama** and **Aurelio Estanislao**, great performers, one and all. They, too, must not be forgotten.

We also remembered **Fernando Poe Jr.**, and hoped that he would soon be honored by having a new National Film Archive named after him. It's the most appropriate way to honor him, because Ronnie was a pioneering film preserver and restorer—the relatively good condition of FPJ Productions' movies bears proud testament to this.

Finally, we thanked God for giving us the opportunity to know the great **Fr. Horacio dela Costa SJ** before he passed away at a relatively young age.

The former head of the Jesuits in the Philippines inspired us with his rare combination of erudition, exceptional writing ability, warmth and humility.

Friends

Other artists or friends we fondly remembered: Zeneida Amador, Inday Badiday, Mary Walter, Bert Marcelo, Vic Pacia, Raul Roco, Chat Silayan, Bey Vito, Gigi Lacson, Pete Daroy, Nick Agudo, Teddy Benigno, Nonoy Marcelo, Adul de Leon, Ric Segreto, Freddie Guerrero, Amado Lacuesta Jr.,, George Canseco, Hammy Sotto, Eddie Mercado, Joey Lardizabal, Jose Mari Velez, Peping Apostol, Ching Dadufalza, Louie Beltran, Levi Celerio, Lina Flor, Jess Cruz, Joe Quirino, J. Eddie Infante, Estrella Alfon and Onib Olmedo.

—Thanks for all the good times!

Mysterious death sustains Marilyn Monroe's enigma

From page F1

of childhood abuse, neglect and economic deprivation.

As a result, Hollywood's ultimate Sex Icon was in constant search of love and family, and manifested signs of her mother's mental illness.

Monroe further added drama to her personal soap opera by claiming that, at the age 16, "instead of going back into another foster home, I got married." The year was 1942.

Her first husband, Jim Dougherty, a physical education instructor, was soon drafted to serve in the Pacific War. Left to fend for herself, the buxom blonde made the Hollywood rounds and caught the acting fever.

Since the movie camera "loved" her photogenic beauty, she became the cover girl of many girlie magazines. Thereafter, she received the "Hollywood treatment" and, it is said, was subjected to the casting couch before she achieved stardom.

Contradictions

Her life was laden with bathos and seeming contradictions. Nevertheless, the world loved her!

To the enamored male population, sexy Marilyn was the naughty girl who didn't realize the power of her feminine charms.

Wasn't she the blonde bombshell who aspired to be an intellectual? After Dougherty, didn't she marry Joe DiMaggio, one of America's greatest athletes? And, during her Actor's Studio days, didn't she declare she wanted to portray Grushenka in the Russian classic "Brothers Karamazov"? Then, she married Arthur Miller, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of "All My Sons" and "The Crucible."

People constantly asked: Why didn't the sex symbol find love? This was another contradiction, because it wasn't for lack of

MYSTERIOUS/ F4

AT THE CINEMAS

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AT THE MALLS

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Glorietta	Seussical The Musical November 7 to 9; 11:30am, 3pm and 6pm; Activity Center
Greenbelt	The Tasting Room October 15 to December 31, 2007
Alabang Town Center	TOWN NIGHTS featuring The Bloomfields Live! November 10; 6pm; Town Plaza
Ayala Center Cebu	BPI Installment Madness November 6 to 15; Paseos, Intersections and Rotunda Area
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Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala Museum	2007 Shell National Students Art Exhibition - 100 Best Entries & Winners November 8 to 18, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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For love of art and country

"ART WITH HEART": DANS (center) surrounded by her exquisite *calado* paintings.

By Nestor U. Torre

THROUGHOUT HER LONG and acclaimed career, visual artist Araceli "Cheloy" Limcaco-Dans has used her beautiful paintings to boost the fundraising drives of many worthy causes.

As the many people she has helped in the past can readily attest, "art with heart" perfectly describes Cheloy's many contributions in this regard.

Major exhibit

Impressively, her desire to help hasn't flagged through the years, and has even increased in ardor. On Nov. 29, in fact, it peaks with a major exhibit-fundraising sale of 20 of Cheloy's new paintings at the National Museum (now known as the Museum of the Filipino People), sponsored by the UP College of Medicine Class of 1983 Foundation.

Therein lies a personal tale: Cheloy's son Tony, belongs to the Class of '83, and has kept her abreast of the many needs of the indigent patients at the Philippine General Hospital.

Pressing needs

To raise the large amount required to alleviate their pressing needs, Cheloy spent months painting 20 acrylic and watercolor artworks, which will be on view at the National Museum's Tambunting Hall from Nov. 29 until Dec. 2.

The exhibit-sale, aptly titled "Alay sa Bayan," will also help upgrade training facilities for students and residents at PGH. A highlight of the exhibit is a special lecture by the artist from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Dec. 1, at the exhibit area.

Prodigious beauty

Cheloy Dans' signature *calado* paintings are admired for their beauty, delicacy and winning way of honoring both Filipino weavers and embroiderer's artistry *and* nature's breathtaking and prodigious beauty.

It is this unique combination that collectors prize. And the fact that 20 new Dans paintings will raise badly needed funds for the Philippine General Hospital makes the "Alay sa Bayan" exhibit-fundraiser an even more significant event. Call 527-0278 (National Museum) or 526-8418 (PGH CPU office).

Discover the spirit of the season as Araneta Center presents fun-filled Holiday celebrations for the entire family!

Experience the enchantment of The Giant Christmas Tree Lighting. Now on its twenty-sixth year, the annual tradition was started way back in 1981 as a celebration of the start of the Christmas Season at Araneta Center.

The sensational celebration will feature a star-studded line-up of ABS-CBN talents performing hits from the chart-topping album "Supah Dance": Christian Bautista, Vina Morales, Erik Santos, Kokey, Rayver Cruz, the Wowowee Girls and many more! The event will be hosted by Anne Curtis, John Pratts and Melissa Ricks.

Be enchanted by Mandarin Oriental's Gingerbread House at the Activity Area of Gateway Mall starting November 17. Plus meet and greet Santa Claus every weekend at Gateway Mall, Farmers Plaza and Ali Mall from November 17 to December 23.

Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with the Belen Lighting Ceremony on November 17. Featuring life-sized images of the Holy Family depicting the Nativity, the much-anticipated event will be held at the McArthur Avenue entrance of Farmers Market.

"Barney's Let's Imagine Tour"
December 19 to 23 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Catch Barney, BJ, Baby Bop and new dino Riff live on stage in "Barney's Let's Imagine Tour" from December 19 to 23 at the Araneta Coliseum. Let Barney take you on a wonderful, magical journey while learning about healthy eating, and great fun ways to exercise.

And don't forget to check out the dazzling display of lights and the special holiday window dressings that adorn the 'Parolan' shops alongside Farmers Market.

Join in the many festive extravaganzas sure to put you in the Christmas spirit! Thrill to the sights and sounds of the Holiday Season at Araneta Center!

For more info, log on to aranetacenter.net, ticketnet.com.ph or gatewaymall.com.ph

Julia Roberts content with being a homemaker

NEW YORK—JULIA Roberts envisions a future of domestic bliss. "My dream is to be a highly fulfilled and productive stay-at-home mom and wife," the Oscar-winning actress tells Vanity Fair magazine. "The highest high would be growing our food, and then composting and growing more—that kind of circle."

Creative outlet

Roberts, 40, says that life would involve having "my own creative outlet, even if it's silly needlework and stuff like that." She and her husband, cinematographer Danny Moder, have 2-year-old twins, Hazel and Phinnaeus, and a son, Henry, born in June.

When asked whether she wants more children, Robert says: "No, I don't think so, because at this point I'm having so much fun with them. You only have so much energy, and you want to put so much energy into each child!"

Roberts says marrying Moder in 2002 was the right thing to do. "It's the most correct decision I've ever made in my life—not that it was even a decision, because it just overtakes you. My whole body knew: 'Yes.' He's my favorite guy!," she adds.

ROBERTS. Envisions a future of domestic bliss.

REUTERS

Roberts, who won an Oscar for her role in the 2000 drama "Erin Brockovich," will next be seen costarring with Tom Hanks in "Charlie Wilson's War," slated for release Christmas Day. *AP*

Rep revives 'Fiddler on the Roof'

By Edmund L. Sicam

TRADITION IS WHAT TEVYE, the lead character in Repertory Philippines' revival of "Fiddler on the Roof," is trying to hold on to with great difficulty, because the world around him is changing: His strong-willed daughters don't want to pick their lifetime partner through the matchmaker, as tradition requires, and the Russians want to drive the Jews away from their homes.

On its 40th year, Rep has chosen to restage "Fiddler on the Roof." The musical started its regular run last night at the Onstage Theater in Greenbelt 1 in Makati. Asked why Rep is bringing back the musical, director Baby Barredo explains, "The message that it sends is as relevant today as it was 30 years ago. Apparently both Broadway and the West End feel the same way, because the musical has been revived over and over. In fact, it is showing now in both places."

Man of the cloth

Playing the role of Tevye is Tyler Allan Strand, a man of the cloth. He is appearing in a major production for the first time. Alternating with him is Miguel Faustmann, who played the same role in Rep's first staging of the musical.

POPULAR musical is theater company's 40th year offering.

Tevye's wife, Golde, is alternately played by Joy Virata and Pinky Marquez. Barredo and Jay Glorioso alternate in the role of the matchmaker. Violinist Farida Kabayao appears as The Fiddler who weaves in and out of production numbers. Barredo and Robbie Guevara share directing duties.

Many of the songs in the show have become part of Broadway's legacy to the world of music. Who can forget "If I Were a Rich Man," which contains Tevye's dig at the Almighty?: "Lord, who made the lion and the lamb/ You decreed I should be what I am/ Would it spoil some vast eternal plan/ If I were a Wealthy Man?"

That question has even become the basis for a theological discussion on the Jewish website, chabad.org: "Tevye has raised one of the most enigmatic issues in religious thought: What is the meaning of finite physical existence?

Question

"The impecunious milkman would undoubtedly be shocked to learn that the answer to his question is yes, it would spoil some vast eternal plan if he were a wealthy man!"

Other songs in the musical are "Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker," "Far from the Home I Love," "Do You Love Me," "To Live" and "Anatevka." Call 887-0710.

FRONT: (From left) Elizabeth Payte and Cazette Mendoza. Back: (From left) Pinky Magsino, Avic Co, Luiz Mendoza and Jave Evangelista.

Unique shopping experience

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE CHARMING LRI DEsign Plaza located at 210 Nicanor Garcia st., Bel Air II, Makati City, has eight new stores joining in its "Gifts and Housewares Sale" from Nov.16 to 26.

The building houses over 40 stores—a unique concept of merchandising that puts together showrooms of fine furniture, home boutiques, art galleries, antique shops, cozy restaurants, and a spa.

Participants

Batanes Photo Safari is giving a big discount to participants who register from Nov. 16 to 26 for trips scheduled between December this year and May 2008.

The eight new stores: Crate, a specialty shop by Jave Evangelista, offers limited editions of rubber shoes for yuppies; PNKY by Pinky Magsino sells tables, sofas, wooden cabinets and antiques; Elizabeth Payte showcases ladies' accessories and paintings;

Interior design

Simply Asian offers made-to-order furniture and accessories from Asian countries; Jenny Lim Santos designs accessories from rural communities; Gallery Andrea offers art supplies, books and art works;

F/128 Art Gallery by Charlie Villanueva specializes in fine-art photography, and Kumodo Artcrafts by Luis and Kay Mendez boasts of teak wood furniture imported from Indonesia. Call 895-5470, or 895-1771.

***

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Jiro Manio takes on another meaty role

By Rica Arevalo

TWO CHILD ACTORS WHO made unforgettable marks in international films are Jean-Pierre Leaud in Francois Truffaut's "The 400 Blows" (1959) and Nikolai Burlyayev in Andrei Tarkovsky's "Ivan's Childhood" (1962).

In local movies, Jiro Manio stands out for his sensitive portrayal in "Magnifico" (2003). He made us cry by simply demonstrating his deep understanding of his character.

Entry

In Adolf Alix's upcoming Cinema One entry, "Tambolista," Jiro impresses once again as Jason, who is desperate to have a drum set of his own. He will do anything just to get what he wants!

Alix shares: "You'll see Jiro's wider range in this film."

We conducted this interview after Jiro's dubbing session at Ignite Media. Wearing his school uniform, the 15-year-old high school junior is on his way to adulthood—as his cracking voice attests.

He recalls, "When I was doing 'Magnifico,' I was just playing. *Hindi ko alam na ganun ang kalalabasan ng* movie. Until now, I am amazed at how it turned out. It's been five years since I shot it, but people are still calling me 'Magnifico.'"

He was discovered by a talent scout during a fiesta in San Juan. "I was 6 years old. As a child, I wanted to be an action star. I would look at myself in the mirror, act out scenes and deliver lines," he beams.

Directors

The young former Urian Best Actor winner shares his experience working with three esteemed directors: "*Natutunan ko kay direk* Maryo J. delos Reyes *ang pagiging simple sa pag-arte. Ayaw niya ng OA. Dapat marunong umintindi ng eksena—kailangang nararamdaman mo.*

"With *direk* Joel Lamangan, I learned about *pakikisama. He makes it easy for his actors to get to know one another, para magkasundo lahat. Si direk* Adolf naman, *mabait, hindi masungit. Napaka*-humble!"

MANIO. Aims to do well in school.

His goal now is to do well in school. "*Gusto kong maka*-graduate *ng* college *at magkaron ng* diploma!"

What is his greatest dream? "I want to be an international star. When people abroad like my performances in films, *tapos nalaman nilang* Filipino *ako, malaking karangalan 'yun.* I want to show the world that Filipinos are very talented!"

Mysterious death...

From page F3

trying. It was said that she was the "prodigy" of a powerful but elderly studio executive during her starlet years. Frank Sinatra, Yves Montand, Marlon Brando, Peter Lawford, John and Robert Kennedy were rumored to be among her many lovers.

Anonymity

Monroe may have attained world renown, but she preferred anonymity. Was the real Norma Jean trying to resurface at that point in her life? It appeared that Monroe felt unloved despite all that adulation and success.

Old photos

However, old photos of her childhood reveal that Norma Jean *did* enjoy life on Catalina Island, where she frolicked on its beaches with family and friends.

The troubled actress died from a suspected drug overdose at age 36. She could have become a fine wife, said Dougherty—except that she had no penchant for housekeeping. Since stardom was her goal, Marilyn Monroe may well have paid the ultimate price for it.

SATURDAY Special

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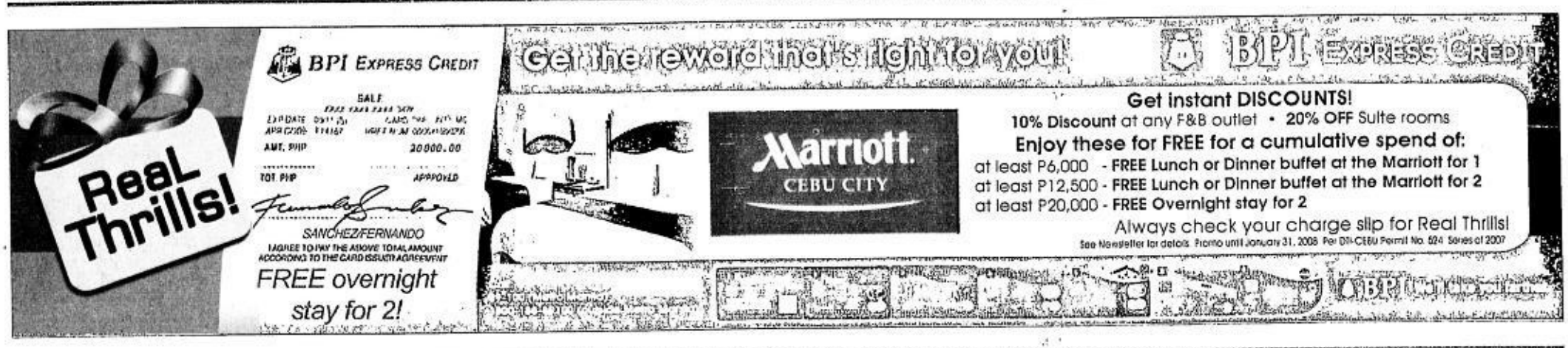


Angelina Jolie opens up

LOS ANGELES—"ISN'T THAT ALWAYS the rumor?," quips Angelina on reports that she's pregnant. "I am not at the moment," the actress declared. "But, I'm beginning to find it funny how often that's written about in the press."

Beautiful as usual in a black blouse and gray slacks, the much-admired humanitarian added, "You should have seen me at 6 o'clock this morning, with everybody in bed and me wondering how I was going to get up to get here!"

Topics

In a recent press con, Angelina talked about a wide array of topics—including her desire to do fewer movies so she can have more time to be with her family that includes Brad Pitt; Maddox, 6; Pax Thien, 3; Zahara Marley, 2, and Shiloh Nouvel, 1.

Life has been so hectic for Angelina that for her, to have "better life experiences" means "being home a little more often."

Jolie stars as a mother and monster in "Beowulf," director Robert Zemeckis' movie version of the oldest surviving poem in the English language. Using the groundbreaking performance-capture technology he introduced in "Polar Express," Zemeckis has crafted a visually stunning film that also stars Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, John Malkovich, Crispin Glover, Robin Wright Penn, Brendan Gleeson and Alison Lohman. Excerpts from our interview:

What is involved in performance-capture technology?

You spend a few days getting mapped so the computers will know your face. You do 60 different expressions. They also map your body. Then, when you shoot, you get to be in a jumpsuit. There are balls on your head. You look goofy and so does everybody so, it makes us feel very close. It's not sexy at all *(laughter)*!

It was a lot of fun! I haven't seen the full film, but when I saw my scenes, I was very surprised. I called home to say that I wasn't sure my 6-year-old can see the movie, because it was more than I expected!

Realistic

It was quite realistic. I thought it might be fun for the eldest of my sons to see—but it's not! It's too mature—it's for older audiences because it's more violent and sexual.

You play a seductress. Have you been seduced in real life?

I'm sure I've been seduced in my life! Probably I shouldn't start talking about it *(laughter)*.

JOLIE. Wants to spend more time with her family. RUBEN V. NEPALES

"Beowulf" was written centuries ago. Yet, it's still valuable today. What do you make of the story?

The poem has a lot of layers. I always saw it as a tale about people who would sacrifice or sell their souls to the devil to get fame or power—and what a horrible trap that is!

I was raised to believe in hard work. At the end of the day, you sleep well because of what you've accomplished. So, the idea of getting something for nothing has never appealed to me.

How excited were you to work with Zemeckis and to play this role?

Bob Zemeckis has an amazing reputation as an innovative filmmaker. I knew this character was the mother *and* the monster and that's always a great role *(laughing)*!

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Activist

You're a mother, a movie star, and a political activist. How do you manage to do these things so well?

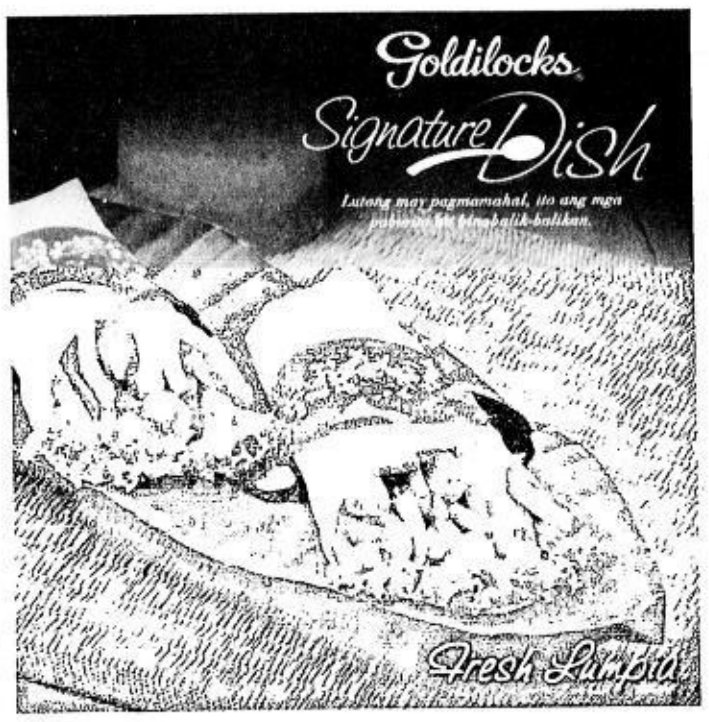
It involves proper scheduling. Obviously, my priorities are my children. They are growing up. I'll be doing even less work, because that's what I prefer to do.

As for political activism, I've been educating myself on things that are happening around the world. It's a privilege to be able to do it. I feel motivated to say or do something because I'm in a position to do so.

In what order of importance do you rank your roles as mom, humanitarian and actress?

I'm a mom first. I don't know if I'm as much an ambassador as I'm a citizen of the world. I just want to learn about the world

ANGELINA/ G2



Oprah in extremis

By Nestor U. Torre

IN THE COURSE OF HER LONG MEDIA career, Oprah Winfrey has espoused a number of causes, sometimes at heavy personal expense on her part. But, this hasn't dissuaded her from continuing to be proactive in her continuing effort to help people help themselves.

For the past few years, Oprah has been concentrating on one major initiative that's close to her heart, because it entails the empowerment of young female students in South Africa, by way of a new school of leadership that the popular and iconic TV host-producer has been subsidizing at a cost of more that $40 million, to date.

Preparations

Oprah has done more than just provide financing for the school. She has been hands-on in her supervision of preparations for the pioneering educational institution, flying to South Africa several times to interview applicants and prospective staffers.

The school's bright potential has given Oprah a psychic high. Last week, however, she confessed to having been "devastated" by reports that some children at her school had been molested by a dorm mistress.

The scandal was swiftly nipped in the bud with Oprah's decision to suspend all dorm personnel, and not to renew the contract of the school's headmistress.

WINFREY. Continuing effort to help people help themselves.

In addition, Oprah flew to South Africa once more to urge her students to share everything they knew about the serial molestations, to make sure that they wouldn't happen again in the future.

Interviewed on CNN at the height of the crisis, Oprah confessed that she had been so crushed by the victim's revelations that she broke down and wept as though someone dear to her had died.

Valuable lessons

Later, however, she pulled herself together and focused on turning the scandal into an opportunity for "her girls" to learn valuable lessons from their shared ordeal.

In Oprah's view, the biggest lesson the

OPRAH/ G3

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 BALLS OF FURY
PREMIERE
LUST CAUTION

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 EL CANTANTE
4 BALLS OF FURY

starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150
3 ATAUL FOR RENT
4 LUST CAUTION
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8804305, 8433894
1 ATAUL FOR RENT
2 GHOST SON
3 LUST CAUTION
4 THE GAME PLAN

THEATRES
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
3 HIDE & SEEK

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena tel (042) 660-6271
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 EL CANTANTE
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 LUST CAUTION
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS
5 BALLS OF FURY
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 GHOST SON
9 ATAUL FOR RENT
10 HIDE & SEEK

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Nina, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 LUST CAUTION
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 HIDE & SEEK
5 THE GAME PLAN

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT
3 RESERVED
4

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3250 / 833.3274
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 GHOST SON

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 SHOOT EM UP

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 HIGHLANDER

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 HIDE & SEEK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 LUST CAUTION

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 UNREST
3 STURDUST
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 RENDITION
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 STARDUST
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 HIDE & SEEK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE & SEEK

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PLEASE CALL
2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 GHOST SON
2 BUKAS MY UMAGA
3 MAKAMUNDO
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 KALAPATI
3 STURDUST
4 MAKAMUNDO
5 UNREST

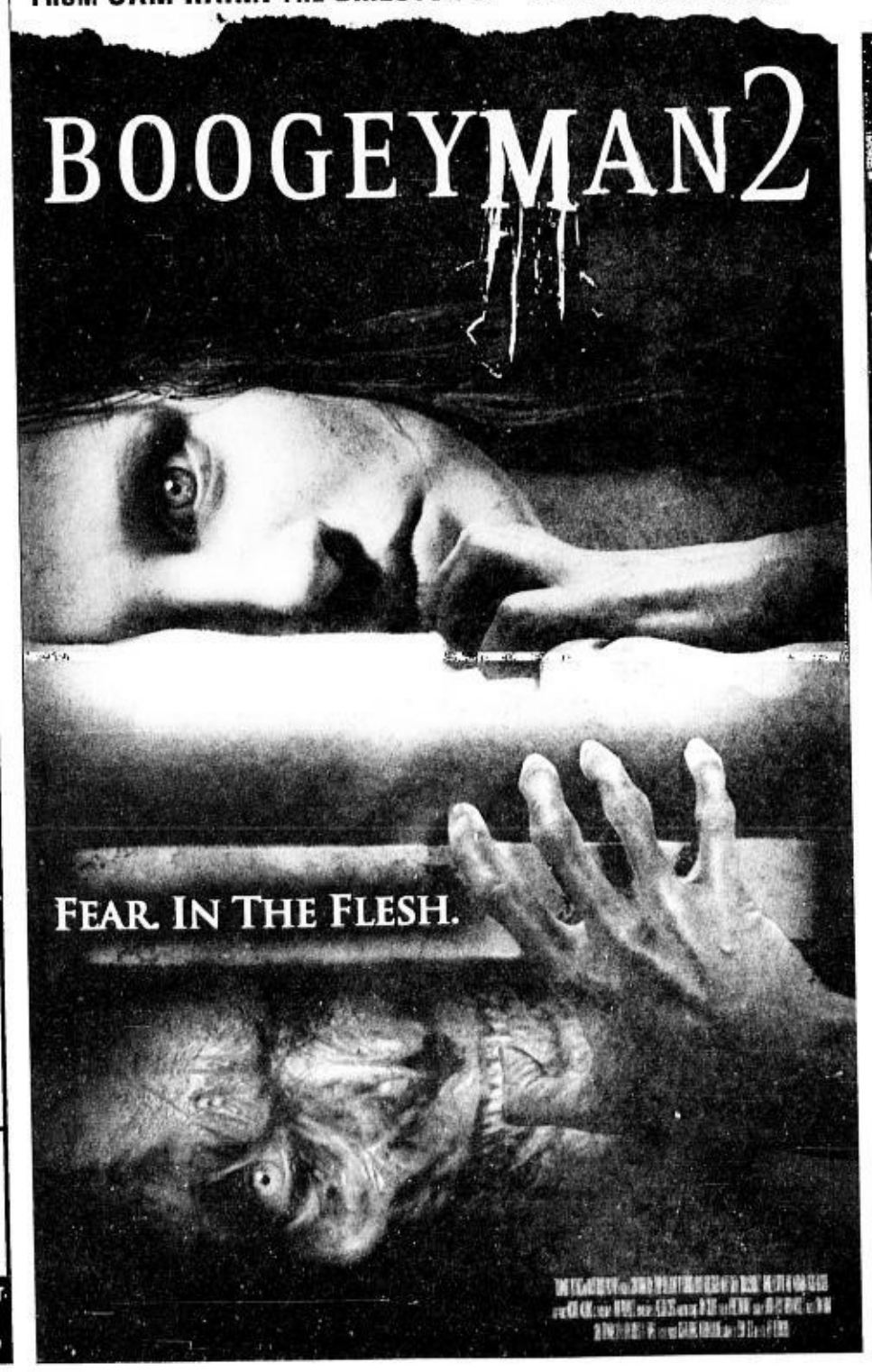
Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 UNREST
3 RETRIBUTION
4 HIDE & SEEK

Berma Cinema
(Batangas) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net
Gateway MALL FarmersPlaza Farmers Market
Watch the lighting of the Giant Christmas Tree!
XMAS FEVER
An Araneta Center Holiday Special
TODAY • 5:30 pm
Araneta Coliseum Parking Quadrant C (near Red Gate)
Gateway CinePlex*10
WORLD-CLASS, STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE AT POPULAR PRICES
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
WE OWN THE NIGHT 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20
LIONS FOR LAMBS 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
GAMEPLAN 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
30 DAYS OF NIGHT 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
LUST CAUTION 12:10 / 3:10 / 6:10 / 9:10
EL CANTANTE 1:05 · 6:35 STARDUST 3:35 / 9:00
GHOST SON 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
UNREST 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
BALLS OF FURY 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
LIONS FOR LAMBS 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com
2007 WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP
Nov. 10 - Quarters and Semis
Nov. 11 - Finals
Ai Ai Ai ... D Greatest Performance Of My Life
Nov. 16, Friday 8pm
For reservations, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph / aranetacenter.net
Belen LIGHTING
NOVEMBER 17 • 4:30PM MASS
FARMERS MARKET, McARTHUR ENTRANCE

OPENS NOVEMBER 14
AFTER "THE GRUDGE" & "THE MESSENGERS"
COMES ANOTHER TERRIFYING MASTERPIECE
FROM SAM RAIMI THE DIRECTOR OF "SPIDERMAN 1,2&3"
BOOGEYMAN 2



"BEOWULF." Robert Zemeckis' film features Jolie as mother and monster.

Angelina . . .

From page G1

and its cultures. Lastly, I'm an actress.

Close calls

You're also a brave woman who goes to some dangerous places. Have you had close calls?

Yes, I've had close calls. I've been in countries where people tried to take my passport—where I've had to hide in a room, because there were people outside who were dangerous.

Last time we talked, you said you were looking forward to aging.

Age is beautiful. My mother was beautiful. She was 58 when she passed away. I have a family that loves me as I am. I see little bits of me in my daughter—so *that's* beauty to me. Honesty is also beauty.

Tell us about your other upcoming movie, "Wanted."

"Wanted" is a fun, action movie. When my mom passed away, I wanted to do something physical to get me out of my head. I wanted to do that because I was in a place where I wasn't capable of getting up in the morning. So I needed something that would force me to be active!

Are you involved with Brad's production company?

We shouldn't mix business and pleasure *(laughing)*. We came together for "A Mighty Heart." He produced it. We're now working together on a project. We have our separate companies, but we run everything by each other.

In Toronto, Brad told us that you are his love, his partner and the mother of his children. How would you describe him?

Can I steal his *(laughing)*? I'd say he's my love, my dearest friend and—the father of my children.

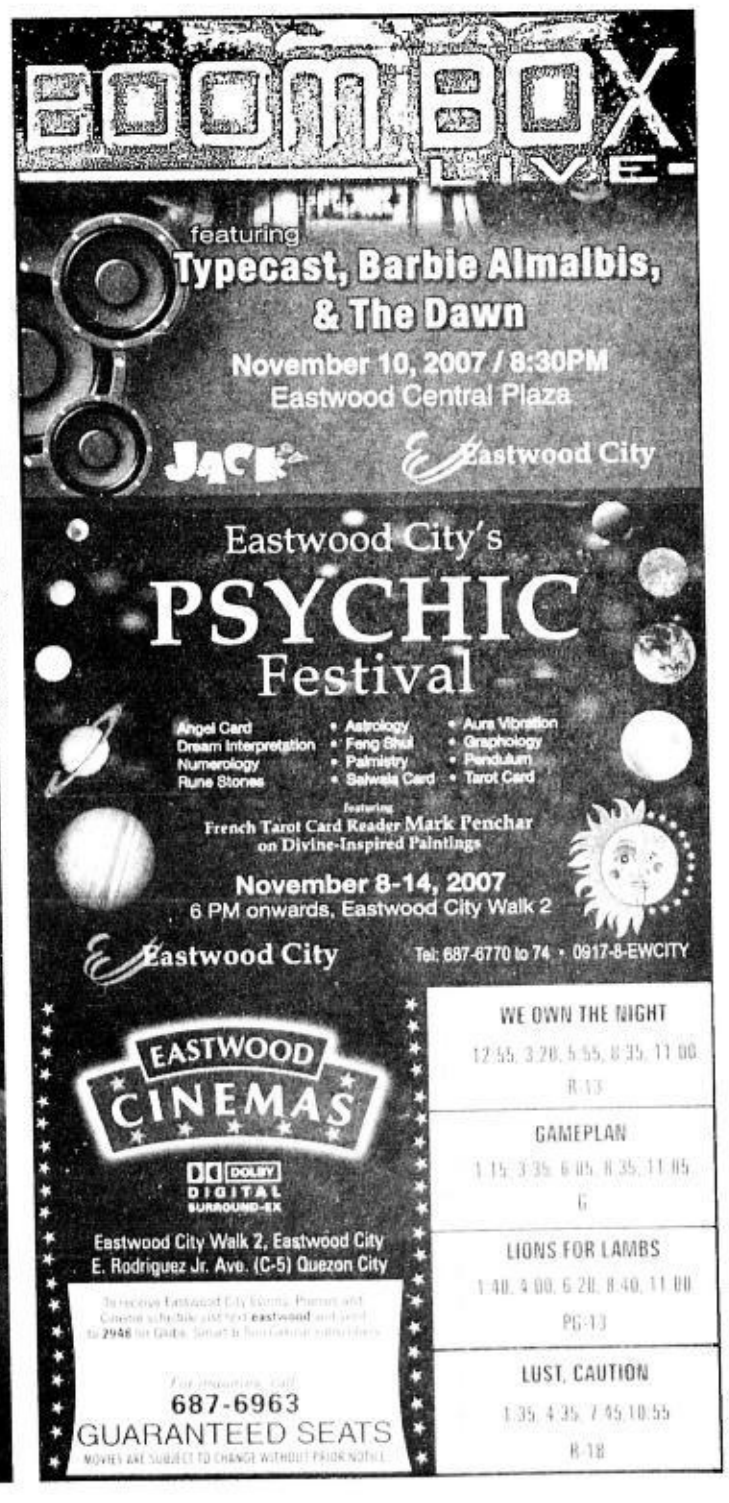
Language

He told us that you spoke good French. What language is spoken in your house?

We're all trying to master French in the house. It has been quite funny. Our 6-year-old kid is doing his best. He goes to a French school, and he corrects me all the time! Somebody in the house speaks Vietnamese. Our 2-year-old is now starting to speak Vietnamese. We have language craziness in our house! I'd like our children to speak the language of their land.

ANGELINA/ G3

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 LIONS FOR LAMBS MTRCB PG-13 12:40 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 THE GAME PLAN MTRCB GP 12.00, 2.30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT MTRCB R-13 2:15, 4.50, 7:25, 10:00
4 BALLS OF FURY MTRCB GP 1:10, 3:15 5:20, 7:25, 9:30
PREMIERE THEATRE LUST CAUTION (R-18) 12:00, 3.10, 6:20, 9:30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
Shang Cineplex E-see Club
Enjoy exciting privileges, rewards and discounts.
Apply at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters.
Log-on to www.shangcineplex.com
or call 633-4735 for details
6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza



Raunchy teen comedy has sweetness and heart

By Noelani Torre

"SUPERBAD," THANKFULLY, DOES NOT live up to its title. This steeped-in-hormones movie is funny—sometimes, incredibly so—and watching it isn't a bad way to while away 90 minutes of your life.

Produced by Judd Apatow (writer/director of "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" and "Knocked Up"), the film once again brings us to the land of geeks and losers who all desperately want something—usually a girl. The geeks and almost-social-outcasts also have to contend with raging hormones, the end of senior year, and their "embarrassingly" virgin state.

"SUPERBAD." Boasts of hilarious gags and a gifted cast.

Main characters

Raunchy and foul-mouthed, it is directed by Greg Mottola from a script written by Seth Rogen (who starred in "Knocked Up") and his boyhood buddy, Evan Goldberg. You can assume it must be semi-autobiographical, since the movie's two main characters are also named Seth and Evan, and the scriptwriters have ostensibly been working on the script since they were 13!

Seth (Jonah Hill) and Evan (Michael Cera) are two high school seniors who've been friends since childhood. They have basically inhabited the fringes of society for about the same length of time. However, they look cool in comparison to their friend, Fogell—who, as pitch-perfectly played by newcomer Christopher Mintz-Plasse, is the epitome of a geek.

When Seth and Evan are invited to a cool kids' party, things suddenly start to look up! Now, all they have to do is procure the booze that they've promised to bring, get themselves and their prospective partners drunk, and hopefully, end up as the girls' alcohol-induced "mistakes."

Unfortunately, the only one who has a fake I.D. is Fogell, who thinks he's so cool he's actually had the name "McLovin" pasted on it. However, that's the least of their problems, as you'll soon see.

Though the events in the story unroll in the course of one day and night (plus, a bit of the morning after), so much happens that you'll never get bored. The sheer number of scenes and events makes the movie somewhat disjointed, but everything else is set at hyper-speed, so you'll hardly notice the flaw.

Juvenile cops

Other wacky characters make appearances—two juvenile cops (played by Rogen and Bill Hader of "Saturday Night Live") and one semi-psycho (Kevin Corrigan)—but this story is really about the boys who, despite their phallocentric dirty talking, are surprisingly sweet.

As the quest to get the booze unfolds, there are gags and funny scenes galore, but the underlying subtext—of growing up and letting go of old friends—is always there.

"Superbad" has heart, hilarious gags, a gifted cast and a giddy scene featuring a multitude of priapic drawings. What more can you ask for?

Angelina Jolie opens up

From page G2

Do you believe in the American school system?

I don't want to be misinterpreted as being against American schools. My kids come from different backgrounds, and I want to make sure that they're getting a broad view of history and of the world.

This might be an unusual thing to say, but my son is going to learn about the Vietnam War at some point. He will learn about whether or not we were in Cambodia and what America's involvement was.

Have you adjusted to the constant presence of the paparazzi in your life?

Certainly, with the children, it's a difficult thing. It limits what we can do. We try to make their lives full whenever possible. We look for places with freedom.

Pictures

When it comes to the cameras, we make sure the children aren't scared of them, so we say, "They're just silly people who take pictures—aren't they crazy?" How could you possibly explain something that there's no good explanation for?

You've done a documentary about different places in the world. How difficult is it to observe people when everybody's observing you?

When I was younger, my favorite thing was to be on the subway—to just be myself and watch people. I miss that. The documentary I did was for high school kids. We sent people with cameras to different parts of the world. I went to Niger where I was with the Tuaregs. They didn't know who I was. They don't believe in gossip! I enjoyed my privacy there.

If you were reborn, would you like to be Angelina Jolie with Brad Pitt again, or a powerful, sexy woman?

Can't I be both *(laughing)*? Honestly, I'd like to be a pilot and a painter.

E-mail rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

Oprah in extremis

From page G1

students could learn was the importance of speaking up, so that justice could be achieved.

She intimated that there had been efforts to persuade the girls to keep their fears to themselves, but they refused to be cowed and bravely spoke up, even if some of them hadn't personally suffered from victimization.

The TV host-producer saw this as a big step forward, because it proved that the students at her new school, the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, had what it took to become true leaders who would go on to achieve great things for their country.

Potential

Even as Oprah strove mightily to accentuate the positive, however, it was clear that she was still severely affected by the scandal, which threatened to undermine her school's potential to empower young women in Africa.

The sight of Oprah *in extremis* was a disquieting viewing experience for her fans, who are more accustomed to seeing her cheering others up, rather than wrestling with a problem that tormented her personally.

But, Oprah's honesty in sharing her extreme disappointment and torment ultimately had a positive effect on viewers, because it showed the extent of her commitment to the many girls at her school whose future has been made brighter by the luminous beacon of her resolute vision for them.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

EL CANTANTE R13 12:30,3:00,5:10, 8:00,10:30	GAME PLAN G 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	BALLS OF FURY G 11:45,1:45,3:45 30 DAYS OF NIGHT R13 5:35,7:50,10:05
WE OWN THE NIGHT R13 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30	LUST CAUTION R18 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10	LIONS FOR LAMBS PG13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 LUST CAUTION 10:35 , 1:35 , 4:35 7:35 , 10:35 R-18
CINEMA 2 EL CANTANTE / 30 DAYS OF NIGHTS 11:40 , 2:25 //5:05 7:50 , 10:35 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a diner entertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 WE OWN THE NIGHTS 11:40 , 2:25 , 5:10 7:55 , 10:35 R-13
CINEMA 4 LIONS FOR LAMBS 10:30, 12:30, 3:00 5:30 , 8:00 , 10:30 PG-13
CINEMA 5 GAME PLAN 11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40 6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35 GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM	November 9,10,16,17,23,24	"Into the Woods" musical	8:00 PM
	November 15, 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM
	November 20, 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
	November 22, 2007	Body Builders	6:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Nov 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	Cenudo Clasico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

MTRCB PG-13
NOW SHOWING
ROBERT REDFORD MERYL STREEP TOM CRUISE
"BRILLIANTLY WRITTEN WITH ON-THE-MARK PERFORMANCES." Larry King
"IMPASSIONED WAKE-UP CALL FOR AMERICA." Pete Hammond, Maxim
"COMPELING, OSCAR-WORTHY PERFORMANCES." EMPIRE UK
LIONS FOR LAMBS

MTRCB R-18 | No one below 18 years of age may be admitted
FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR OF CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON AND THE PRODUCER OF FEARLESS
TONY LEUNG introducing TANG WEI LEEHOM WANG
TO KILL THE ENEMY, SHE MUST CAPTURE HIS HEART... AND BREAK HER OWN.
ANG LEE film
LUST CAUTION 色戒
WINNER OF THE GOLDEN LION FOR BEST FILM AT THE 64TH VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
NOW SHOWING
ONLY AT SELECTED THEATERS
Distributed by Columbia Pictures Industries Inc.

MTRCB R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
MARK WAHLBERG • JOAQUIN PHOENIX
UNITED BY BLOOD. DIVIDED BY CRIME.
Two brothers on opposite sides of the law. Beyond their differences lies loyalty.
EVA MENDES ROBERT DUVALL
NOW SHOWING VIVA
WE OWN THE NIGHT

MTRCB Rating G | All Ages Admitted
What's Your Poison?
WALT DISNEY
ENCHANTED
In Cinemas November 21
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY P.M. JUNIOR

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

LOVEKNOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

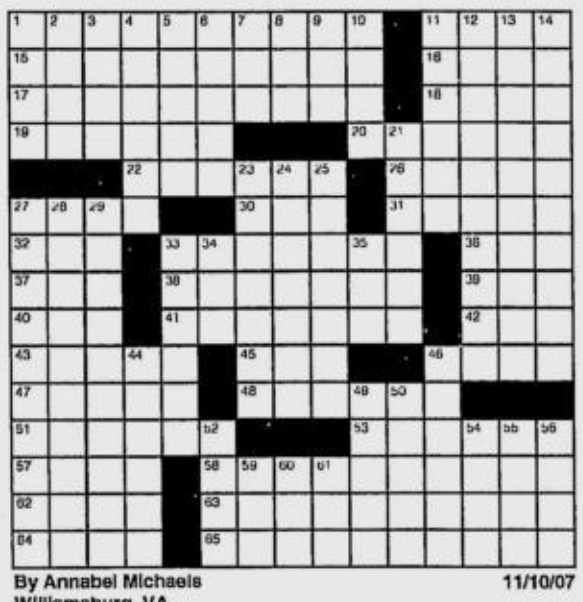
KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Bonanza
11 Fifth of MMMDV
15 Heretic
16 North Carolina campus
17 Famine
18 Took off
19 Charlotte hoopster
20 Fire from the air
22 Newton and Asimov
26 Broadcaster
27 Bruins of sports
30 Quantity of gold
31 Part of a spur
32 FDR's Blue Eagle
33 Pig out
36 Puncture starter?
37 __ Moines, IA
38 Cleric's cap
39 Wee lad
40 Summer hours in St. Pete
41 Infatuated
42 __ out (scrape by)
43 Nouveau __
45 French summer
46 Angry states
47 Pal of Porthos
48 Hussein of Iraq
51 Contract component
53 Neighbor of the Republica Portuguesa
57 Metal canisters
58 Bound in service
62 Noun-forming suffix
63 Transferred to a different job
64 Land title
65 Atlantic coast populace

DOWN
1 Cornmeal dish
2 Not deceived by
3 Lift in Aspen
4 Rupture
5 Santa's toymakers
6 Rodeo accessory
7 Allow to
8 Egg: pref.
9 __ volente (God willing)
10 Sea eagles
11 Hollywood Dolores
12 City on Tampa Bay
13 Sweet treat
14 Lulls, e.g.
21 Plaid fabric
23 Mimicries
24 M.L. King's widow
25 Marked text to keep
27 Downplayed
28 Spending limit for some
29 Final opportunity
33 Preoccupy
34 Exuberance
35 Had dinner
44 Lodged
46 Challenge in argument
49 Jam-packed
50 Buzzing with activity
52 Ireland alias
54 British composer
55 __-do-well
56 Finds the sum of
59 Performance grants org.
60 German film, "__ Boot"
61 NY clock setting



By Annabel Michaels
Williamsburg, VA
11/10/07

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	M	E	S		L	E	N	A		P	I	E	C	E
M	A	X	I		A	M	E	R		I	N	T	E	L
E	N	E	R	G	Y	B	A	R		U	D	A	L	L
B	I	T		O	L	E		A	S	S	I	S	T	S
A	L	E		P	A	R	A	N	O	I	A			
S	A	R	A	H		S	I	G	N		N	C	A	A
			N	E	L		S	E	A	S	C	A	P	E
P	A	C	K	R	A	T		S	T	I	L	L	E	R
C	A	R	L	S	B	A	D		A	B	U			
B	R	I	E		A	B	E	S		E	B	E	R	T
			J	E	T	L	I	N	E	R		R	E	A
R	I	P	O	S	T	E		O	U	I		N	E	V
U	N	L	I	T		S	C	U	B	A	D	I	V	E
P	R	U	N	E		A	S	T	I		N	E	E	R
P	E	S	T	S		W	I	S	E		A	S	S	N

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HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: To others, you appear confident, attractive and self-assured (despite how you feel inside). You have dash and style. Privately, your life can undergo dramatic changes that are hidden to others. You frequently need time by yourself to cogitate and ponder life. Influential people often benefit you. Grab every opportunity to work, build and construct something in the next year, because your rewards will soon follow.

Birthdate of: Sir Richard Burton, actor; MacKenzie Phillips, actress; Brittany Murphy, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a poor day to make decisions about shared property or responsibilities. In fact, it's a poor day to make any important decisions, especially financial ones.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a bit of a goofy day. You will no doubt notice this in discussions with partners and close friends. Just don't agree to anything important.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Refrain from making any important work-related decisions. Similarly, you might want to wait before you agree to anything that might affect your health.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a wonderful, playful, creative, flirtatious day! Enjoy yourself. And enjoy playful activities with children as well. Be a kid again.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is not a good day for serious discussions or any kind of important commitments or promises to others. Wait until this evening to be on sure footing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Expect shortages, confusion and delays at work today. It's not easy to be efficient today. Don't beat yourself up about this. (It's gone by tomorrow.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a poor day to spend money on anything except food. Don't agree to promises. Wait until late in the day to see which way the wind is blowing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a playful, goofy day. It's not a day for important discussions; however, you might explore new ideas right to a ridiculous end. Hey—this might be helpful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't worry if you feel vaguely restless or unsure of things today. It's just what's happening with the Moon. A lot of people feel this way. By evening, things will settle down.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't change your goals in discussions with others today. Even if you like what someone else says, wait until tonight before you decide to endorse this new line of thought.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Conversations with parents, teachers, bosses and authority figures might be confusing and vague today. That's because nobody knows for sure what's happening. Table important decisions until tonight or tomorrow.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Both your imagination and your appreciation of beauty are heightened today. It's a lovely day to explore parks, museums, galleries and beautiful places. You're open to seeing things with new eyes.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

	4	7	1					
			5					
	1		6			4		
	8		3		6	7	4	
	7		2		4		9	
	5	6	8		7		2	
		3			2		5	
					1			
					5	6	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/10

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	6	3	9	5	1	2	7	4
9	4	5	2	7	6	8	3	1
1	2	7	4	8	3	6	9	5
7	8	4	5	6	2	9	1	3
3	9	2	7	1	8	5	4	6
6	5	1	3	4	9	7	8	2
5	3	9	1	2	7	4	6	8
2	1	6	8	9	4	3	5	7
4	7	8	6	3	5	1	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/09

Josh Groban balances cheer, irony in Christmas collection

By Rito Asilo

JOSH GROBAN SPREADS more than just Yuletide cheer in "Noel," the 26-year-old recording star's fourth studio album:

In what is arguably the most heart-rending cover of Gannon, Ram and Walker's holiday tune, "I'll Be Home for Christmas," the singer doesn't merely articulate the timeless carol's soulful melancholy, he also imbues it with irony and political commentary by peppering the four-minute song with messages of love, loneliness and longing from American soldiers stationed in Iraq for their families back home.

Spirited greetings

The cheerful voices can't hide the veiled sadness in those spirited greetings: For instance, a female soldier—the mother of a 3-year-old girl—longs to see the beaming face of her daughter as she opens her mother's present on Christmas morning.

Toward the end of the song, as we hear voices of children greeting their parents in Iraq, a young boy assures his soldier-father that he, his mom and sister have allotted a special space for his gift under the Christmas tree as they pray for his safe return from the Gulf War.

Chart-topping debut

This week, as Carrie Underwood's "Carnival Ride" wrestled the No.1 spot from Alison Krauss and Robert Plant's highly-anticipated collaborative effort, "Raising Sand," on the Billboard 200 chart, Groban continues to deliver solid sales as "Noel" stays in the top five—three weeks after its chart-topping debut.

But, Groban's latest recording triumph isn't really a surprise. After all, the classically-trained singer has the perfect pipes for tunes that require exquisite, lyrical singing.

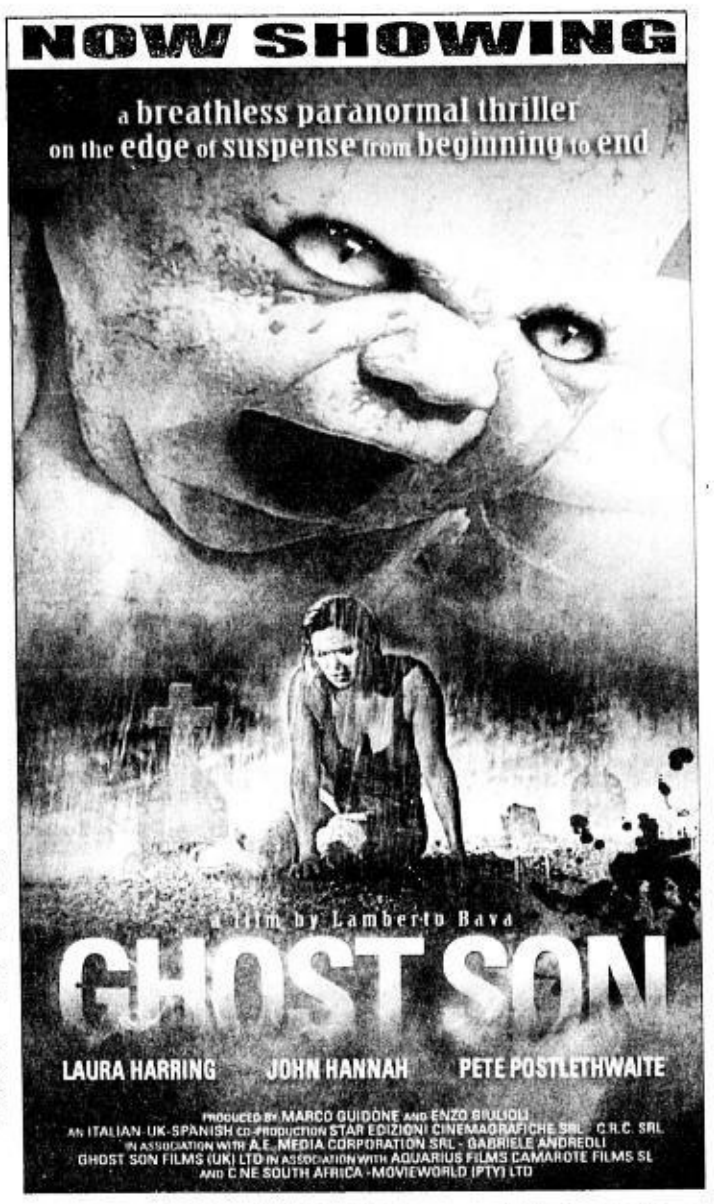
His crystal-clear renditions of the traditional "Ave Maria" hymn, Mel Torme's "The Christmas Song," and his touching collaborations with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir ("O Come All Ye Faithful"), Kirk Whalum and the London Symphony Orchestra are slickly-produced, beautifully arranged numbers.

The album is not without flaws, though: "The Little Drummer Boy," for example, suffers from innovative but stilted phrasing that diminishes the power of Groban's performance.

GROBAN. Heart-rending cover of "I'll Be Home for Christmas" in latest album.

Other notable cuts include a kick-ass cover of "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"; "The First Noel," his inspired duet with country music royalty, Faith Hill, and "Angels We Have Heard on High," which boasts of a seamless fusion of disparate vocal styles—Groban's classical pop and Brian McKnight's R&B crooning.

Another top track is Groban's interpretation of David Foster's sparely arranged but spiritually uplifting "Thankful"—a perfect track for a talented singer with many blessings to be thankful for!



Hollywood suffers from writer's block

By Nestor U. Torre

"WITHOUT THEM, I'M NOT funny!"

That's how "The Tonight Show" host, Jay Leno, paid tribute to his popular talk-comedy program's writers, after they stopped working and joined US TV-film writers' first strike in nearly 20 years.

Leno was obviously on the writers' side, since they had helped make him popular with the funny spiels and sketches they had written for him and his show all these years.

LENO. Attributes his success and popularity to his show's writers.

Issues

Others, however, aren't as clear about the issues involved, so some detailing is decidedly in order: Hollywood writers are striking because, after last-ditch talks with producers failed, they didn't get the raise in residual pay they were after.

Basically, they wanted a larger share of the pie when it came to residuals related to DVD sales and Internet broadcasts.

At present, writers get what they regard as a paltry 5 percent per sale—and they want the amount raised to 8 percent.

No way, say producers, who cite factors that would make the raise too onerous for them to agree to. So, the writers have been forced to stop writing, immediately plunging programs like talk shows, comedies and soaps into rerun mode.

These shows were the first to go, because they have to be topical, so they can't script their episodes too far in advance of taping.

True enough, the talk shows of Leno and David Letterman have already gone into replays—and, if the strike isn't resolved soon, many other programs will follow.

Reruns

TV people on both sides of the argument hope that it won't come to that, because too many reruns can weaken even the most popular shows' hold on viewers, and could even "kill" some of them.

So, why don't producers capitulate right away? One of the reasons could be the TV industry's generally benign neglect of scriptwriters. Stars and directors are paid a lot, but most writers get the relatively short end of the stick when it comes to payment.

Why so? Maybe because writers' work is regarded by some to be relatively unimportant. This, of course, is absolutely wrong-headed, since writers provide nothing less than the material that actors and directors need to work on.

The best proof of the importance of writers is the current strike and its effects: With no new scripts forthcoming, shows have no choice but to telecast reruns. Enough said.

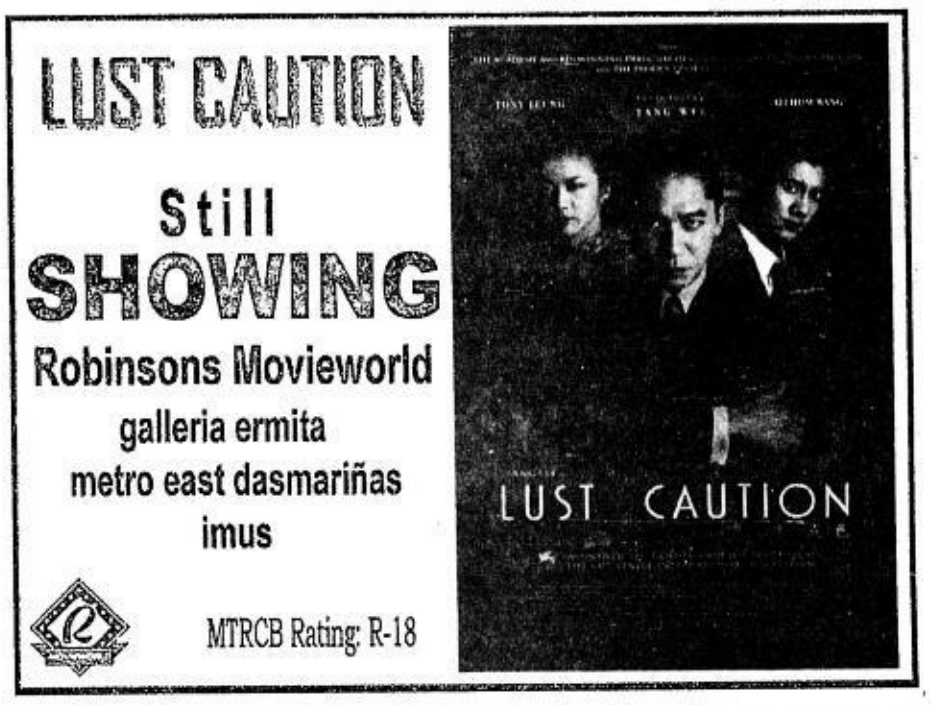
Increasing importance

The writers' strike also serves to point up the increasing importance of "New Media" when it comes to entertainment.

Aside from what you view on your TV screens, you can now access entertainment on a wide range of new electronic and digital venues that weren't available only a decade ago.

Writers know how pervasive—and profitable—these new media have become, hence their insistence on getting a bigger share of the additional income being derived from them.

Perhaps the coverage that the strike has been eliciting will also educate others about the significance of these new entertainment and information venues, which are predicted to eventually eclipse traditional media in the extent and depth of their impact on viewers!



Scarlett Johansson turns babysitter

From page G6

host and columnist. Yahoo! Answers is an online community where people can ask each other questions on any topic.

'Ilaw ng Pasko'

The CCP and the Manila Broadcasting Company are mounting "Paskong Pinoy," a uniquely Filipino Christmas celebration at the CCP grounds from Dec. 18 to 22. A highlight is "Ilaw ng Pasko," a lantern-and-float parade, back-to-back with a choral competition among children's choirs in Metro Manila. Participating school groups (maximum of 12 entries) will be given a subsidy of P75,000 for each float. Call 832-6125.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 7 p.m., "America's Sweethearts." Tomorrow at 9 a.m., "Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple 2." Nov. 12 at 11 a.m., "Escape from Alcatraz." Nov. 13 at 6 p.m., "Meet Joe Black." Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m., "The Truman Show." Nov. 15 at 4 p.m., "Feds." Nov. 16 at 9 a.m., "Kiss-Kiss, Bang-Bang."

On Cinemax today at 11 p.m., "Plots with a View." Tomorrow at 9 a.m., "The Manchurian Candidate." Nov. 12 at 7 a.m., "The Ballad of Josie." Nov. 13 at 11 a.m., "Rebel Without a Cause." Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., "Friday Night Lights." Nov. 15 at 7 p.m., "Collateral." Nov. 16 at 9:15 a.m., "Paris When It Sizzles."

Conference on Autism

On Nov. 10 and 11, the Autism Society of the Philippines holds its 10th Autism National Conference at the Philippine Columbian Association bldg., Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila. Distinguished speakers from the US, Spain, Singapore and the Philippines will present new technologies and modalities in addressing the various concerns of people with Autism. Call 926-6941, or register online *via* http://www.autismsociety.ph.org.

'Luksong Tinik, Patintero, Atbp.'

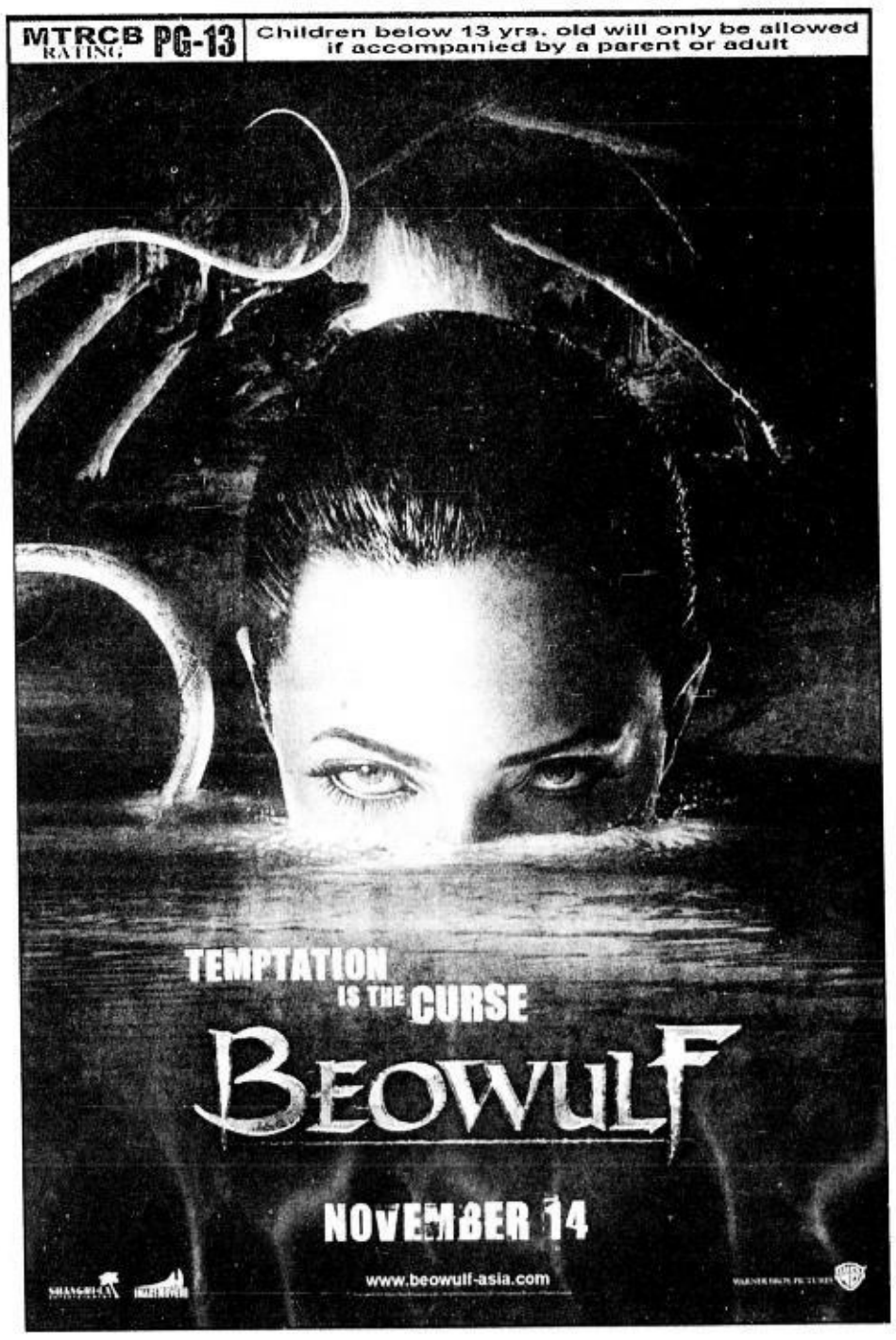
Sofitel Philippine Plaza is partnering with Anak TV to stage the exhibit, "Luksong Tinik, Patintero, Atbp. (Laro Tayo!)," which will be launched at 4 p.m. on Nov. 15.

The exhibition of Vic Feliciano's pen and ink renderings of traditional children's games will be accompanied by video clips, a display of kiddie play paraphernalia and "playful" competitions among kids and adults.

The exhibit encourages parents to prod children to play games and engage in physical activity, rather than sedentary pastimes. It also seeks to revive the games of childhood.

Episode 11

The 11th episode of the religious talk-magazine show, "Power to Unite with Elvira," will be telecast on NBN-4 on Nov. 13. Its theme, "Love Is Not Irritable," will be discussed by the Most. Rev. Romulo G. Valles, DD, Archbishop of Zamboanga. Also appearing are TV network executives, Bob and Edith del Rosario, and the Baba family of Davao, runners-up in the second National Catholic Family Bible Quiz.



Second season of 'Power to Unite' focuses on education

GO. Her TV show enables her to expeditiously sow messages from the Scriptures to a larger audience.

By Mag Cruz Hatol

WHEN THE IDEA TO PRODUCE A BIBLE QUIZ SHOW ON TV WAS HATCHED, THE NBN-4 NETwork management generously assigned a weekly primetime slot to it. The half-hour telemagazine program, "Power to Unite," is now telecast Tuesday evenings at 7 and holds its own against some more commercial shows.

Despite her comfortable social position, host-producer Elvira Yap Go consistently pushes for family bonding, national unity, the restoration of moral order, and the need to strengthen faith. She shoulders her advocacies like badges of honor.

Secret weapon

Elvira's secret weapon is the Holy Spirit, whom she refers to as a special Friend who protects her and makes things happen for her:

Television, for instance, beaconed after she adopted her advocacy supporting Anak TV and child-sensitive media. Today, with her show, she can expeditiously sow messages from the Scriptures to a larger audience.

"Power to Unite" is no tyro, judging from its initial season's impressive guest list: Cebu's Cardinal Vidal, Manila's Cardinal Rosales, CBCP bigwigs like Archbishop Lagdameo and Bishops Tagle and Capalla. Musical entertainment is provided by friends and supporters from different religious denominations like Nanette Inventor, Jose Mari Chan, Donna Cruz, Ivy Violan, Isay Alvarez and Robert Seña.

With church leaders as her main guests, Go dispenses hope and brings the church closer to the people. She explains: "God's word is the neutralizing force—we are able to reach out to Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and other faiths!"

Moral formation

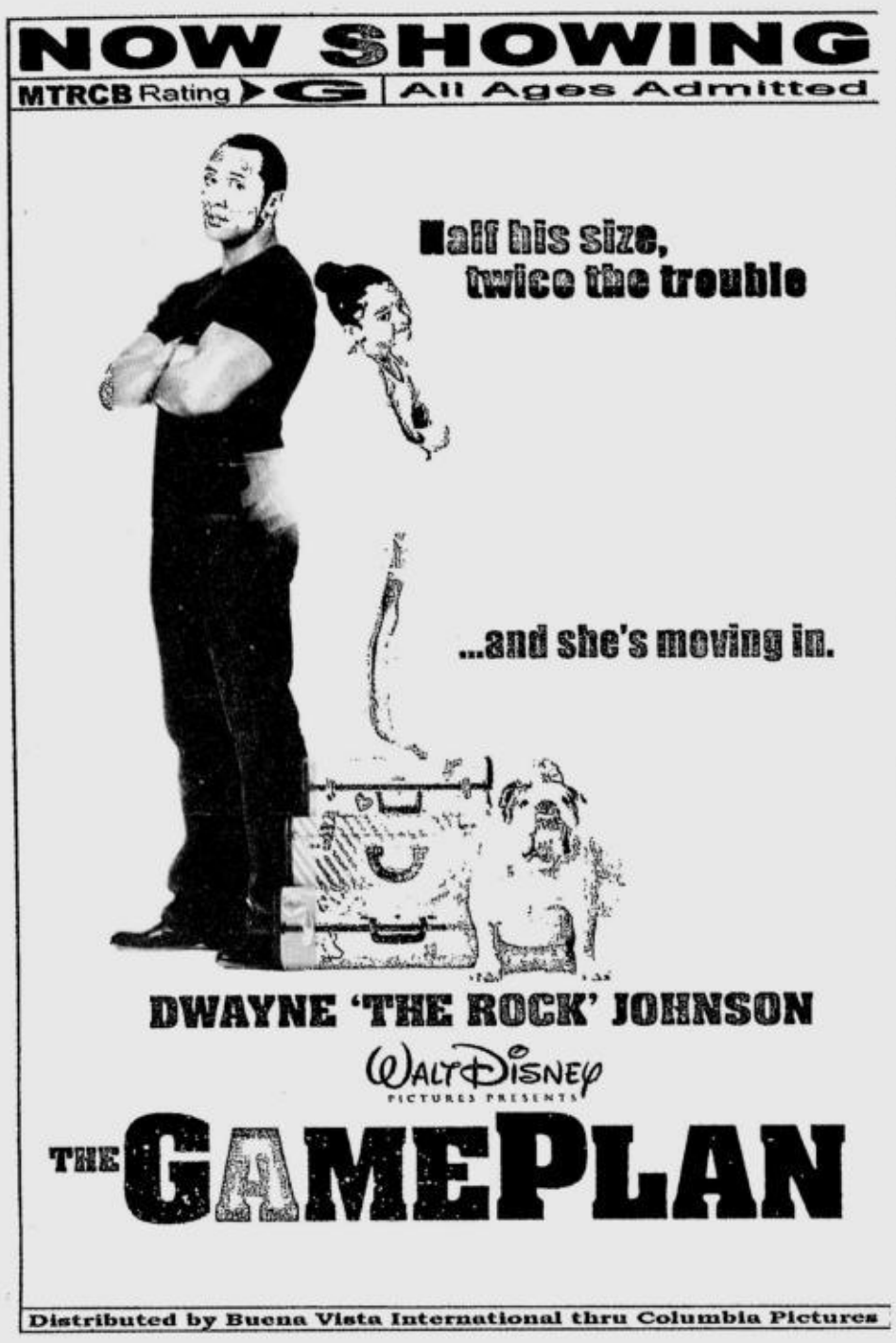
"There is a hand directing me to focus on education in the show's second season. So, we will visit schools and universities to probe the role of education in man's moral formation. I'm eager to know why issues like abortion and premarital sex remain unresolved."

Every person in the show's production team shares Go's sense of volunteerism. The show runs on a shoestring budget and relies chiefly on goodwill.

Evangelizers

In staging the Bible Quiz, Elvira realized that God singles out the poor to be evangelizers: She witnessed how the meek and humble lived the words of the Scriptures to the hilt! She noted that families from modest backgrounds are the usual winners in the derby.

Indeed, mass media can be used effectively in promoting God's word! Elvira then made a pact with the Holy Spirit that she would be neither a rabble-rouser nor a flamboyant pastor. She would instead wrestle with the show's financial challenges, armed solely by hope and faith!



Scarlett Johansson turns babysitter

MADELA. Releases album of well-loved Yuletide songs.

"IT GIRL" SCARLETT JOHANSSON FALLS IN love with Hollywood hottie, Chris Evans, in "The Nanny Diaries." Cast as a nanny, Johansson has to cater to every whim of her wealthy employer (Laura Linney) and her precocious son, while attempting to avoid the formidable *pater familias* (Paul Giamatti).

MONTAGE

Life becomes even more complicated when the nanny is smitten by a gorgeous Harvard student (Evans), and she's forced to reexamine her life and the confounding direction into which it's headed.

Four-time Golden Globe nominee Johansson observes: "'The Nanny Diaries' is about high grades, high living—and high anxiety. It's about the pressure we put on our kids to have a passion and to succeed—and what happens when we take that too far. So, both kids and parents can learn valuable lessons while having a fun time watching this movie."

JOHANSSON (LEFT). Plays a nanny in latest film project.

'The Voice of Christmas'

Jed Madela's "The Voice of Christmas" album features well-loved carols like "O Holy Night," "Give Love on Christmas Day," "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and "White Christmas."

Nescafe Soundskool grand finals tonight

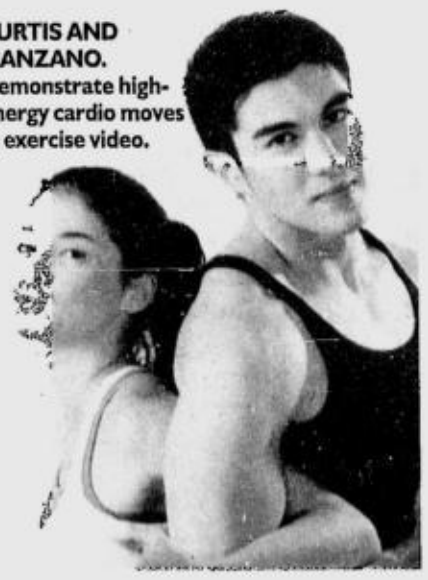
The stage is set for the grand finals of the country's biggest intercollegiate band competition, Nescafe Soundskool, tonight at the Ultra. Thirteen finalists and some leading bands (Sandwich, Sugarfree, Hale, etc.) will perform.

The finalists are Peaches of STI College-Davao; Blue Ozone of St. Vincent's College-Dipolog; Novelista Pasta of Capitol University-Cagayan de Oro; Youth rebellion and Lazy Susan of the Asian Development College; Karasakholl52 of the Eastern Visayas State Iniversity;

Even of the University of Baguio; Zoom-Zoom Lunacy of the Union Christian College; Jam Disposition of the University of the Cordilleras; 507C of the University of the East; Hotsi Patootsi of the Asia Pacific College; Hymn of Siren of the Ateneo de Manila University, and Ernsville of the University of Asia and the Pacific. Log on to www.nescafe.com.ph.

'Bump & Burn' exercise video

Enjoy an action-packed workout at home with the new exercise video, "Bump & Burn," "starring" the buff tandem of Anne Curtis and Luis Manzano. The exercise program's high-energy cardio moves are designed to strengthen and tone the entire body, with intense focus on the abs.



CURTIS AND MANZANO. Demonstrate high-energy cardio moves in exercise video.

Digital camera workshop

Digital photography has become an important tool for creative expression and visual communication. To help photography enthusiasts develop their skills, the First Academy of Computer Arts will hold a digital camera workshop today from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., featuring renowned photographer Sonny Joaquin. Call (632) 898-2724 to 26, or visit www.firstacademy.net.

VELOSO. Topbills "Gee Gee at Waterina."

Dumaguete performances

Tanghalang Pilipino's twinbill, "Gee Gee at Waterina" and "Welcome to Intelstar," will be performed at 3 and 8 p.m. today at the Luce Auditorium, Silliman University, Dumaguete City. The first play stars Lou Veloso and Paulo Cabanero, while the second topbills Mailes Kanapi.

E-See Club membership

The Shang Cineplex at the prestigious Shangri-La Plaza mall now offers membership to its exclusive Shang Cineplex E-See Club. Members' personalized loadable smart card can be used for on-site and off-site ticket purchases.

At the same time, members can earn points that can be redeemed for rewards, plus discounts on private bookings, updates and bulletins on upcoming movies. Visit www. shangcineplex.com or call 633-4735.

'The Boardroom Master Class'

Today and tomorrow, CNN telecasts "The Boardroom Master Class," a new series featuring some of the best business minds today. Initially, the series features Starbucks' Howard Schultz.Telecast times are at 9:15 p.m. today and 4:15 p.m. tomorrow. Visit www.cnn.com/the boardroom.

In addition, CNN airs "Scene By Scene—Filmmakers of Asia Pacific" today and tomorrow at 2 p.m., and "Best Films of Asia Pacific" on Nov. 17 and 18 at 2 p.m. The documentaries celebrate the outstanding works of filmmakers across more than 70 nations in the region.

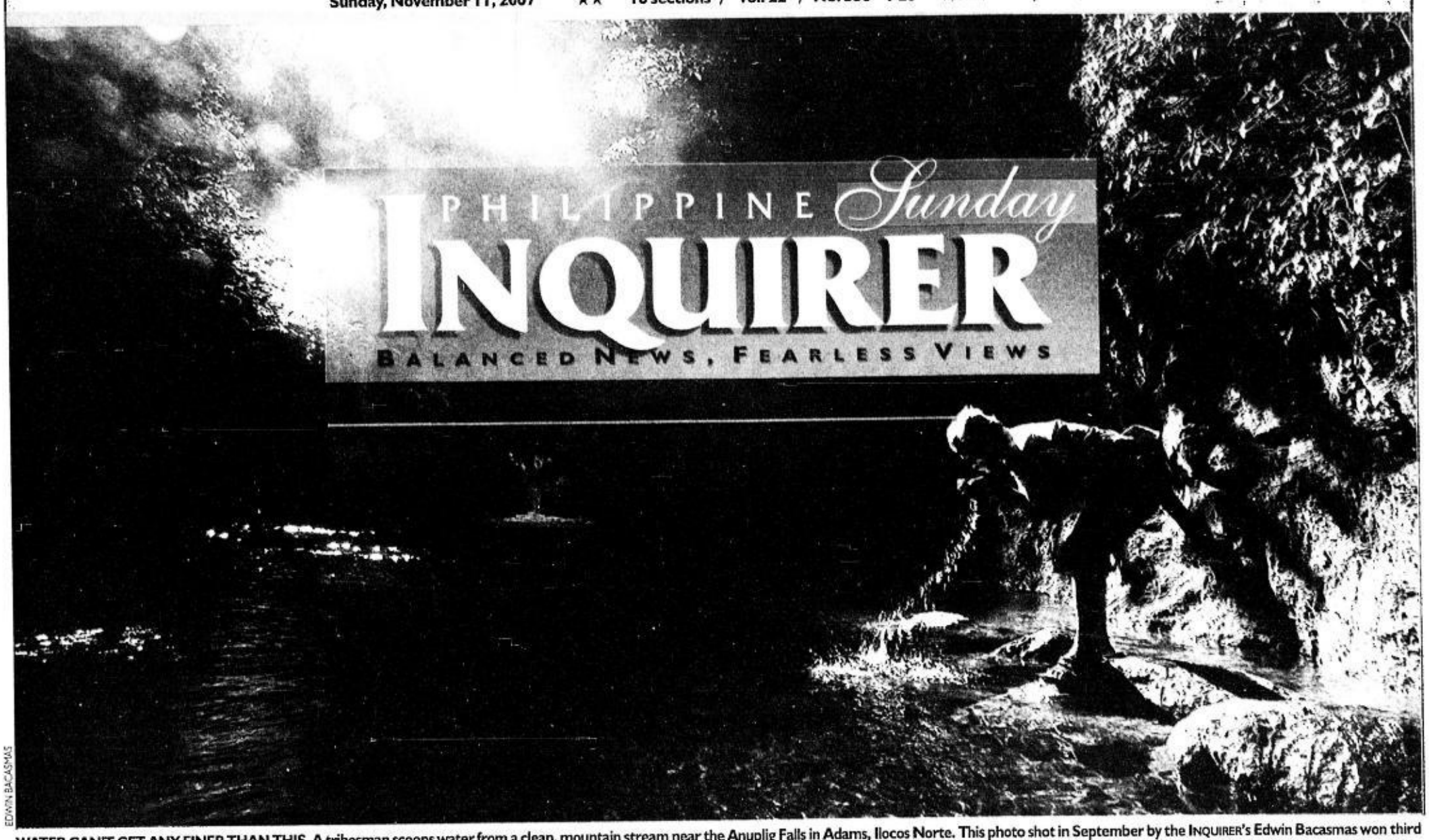
Patricia Evangelista

Patricia Evangelista is being featured by Yahoo! Philippines (www.yahoo.com.ph) on Yahoo! Answers this week. Yahoo! Answers users can now exchange insights with the witty TV

SCARLETT/ G5

Sunday, November 11, 2007 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 336 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



EDWIN BACASMAS

WATER CAN'T GET ANY FINER THAN THIS. A tribesman scoops water from a clean, mountain stream near the Anuplig Falls in Adams, Ilocos Norte. This photo shot in September by the INQUIRER's Edwin Bacasmas won third place and the "People's Choice" award last month in the contest organized by Greenpeace. Billed as "Project: Clean Water," the contest aimed to fast-track action to protect the country's rapidly vanishing fresh water sources.

Mutiny has happy ending

God used us to stop captain's abuses, say RP seamen

By Tarra Quismundo

IT WAS MUTINY ON THE HIGH SEAS—WITH A HAPPY ending.

The nine Filipino mutineers returned to their motherland at around 11:20 p.m. on Friday, grateful that they had come home in one piece and free of criminal charges that would have kept them behind bars in a foreign land. It was, one said, all that he had wanted.

Roderick Sumang, Delter Algay, Edwin Lee, Jesus Manaqued, Sherilo Moraleja, Socrates Silan Jr., Dennis Tolentino, Noel Cusi and Jose Menpin—all undocumented workers—flew to Mauritius a month ago to work as crew members on the fishing vessel Ruei Thih Fa.

With their Taiwanese captain Jui-yin Huang and nine other Chinese crewmen, they set sail from Mauritius' capital, Port Louis, on Oct. 31 and began work on Nov. 2, unaware that they were to fill 22-hour work days.

MUTINY/ A17

Once 'ugly' Pinoy is top fund raiser for 'Smile'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
Business

WHEN JOSE CAPARAS TALKS, EVEN us senators listen.

As head of the speakers' bureau of Operation Smile, a global network dedicated to repairing childhood facial deformities, Caparas has been all over the world and counts US senators and congressmen and top London businessmen among his enthralled listeners.

Once he's done speaking, his listeners never fail to whip out their checkbooks and give generously to Operation Smile.

A recent fund raiser in London raised £300,000 (P27.4 million) and a sharing session with Xango International made the health drink company one of Operation Smile's biggest donors.

And all that Caparas really needed to do was talk about himself and the miracle that is Operation Smile.

The 50-year-old knows whereof he speaks for he is one of the more than 100,000 children and young adults

ONCE/ A8

Sonia Roco adds drama to PDI reading session

By Eliza Victoria
Inquirer Research

THERE WAS DRAMA DURING the 15th session of the Philippine Daily Inquirer's Read-Along program held yesterday.

Former senatorial candidate and teacher Sonia Roco read a story to the children and then asked them to dramatize her Filipino translation of Leo Lionni's "The Alphabet Tree."

"I look like a teacher!" Roco said when she arrived at the INQUIRER office in Makati carrying her favorite children's book under her arm.

She also unloaded the following items from her car: A tree with leaves labeled with letters of the alphabet, wings fashioned from wire, yellow Japanese paper, and what appeared to be a Christmas wreath. They were props for the coming activity.

"Participation makes a good storytelling event," Roco said, bewailing the short attention span of children today. "But if they are part of the story, they no longer listen passively."

Roco, who trained in Speech and Drama at the Rose Bruford School of Drama in London, did not ask the kids to dramatize the story right away. "That's the second level," she said. "But first, they have to listen."

With the tree she brought as

SONIA/ A6

ROMY HOMILLADA

CLASS ACT: Sonia Roco did not only read during PDI's 15th Read-Along session on Saturday but asked the kids to dramatize the story complete with the costumes that she provided.

Now, NPC hides 'hideous' mural

By TJ Burgonio

IT COULD BE THE TRUE STATE of press freedom or it's life simply imitating art.

First, the controversial mural on press freedom was "censored" by the National Press Club which

NOW/ A17

RP choirs harvest medals in int'l chorale tilts

By Tarra Quismundo and Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

FILIPINO GROUPS BROUGHT HOME a harvest of international trophies in choral singing this month, cementing the Philippines' reputation as a nation of natural-born singers.

On Nov. 3, the University of the East Chorale (UEC) won the championship for the second straight year of the Busan International Choral Competition in South Korea.

The 26-member UEC won the grand prize, two gold medals and a grade of "internationally excellent" from the judges of the international choral tilt held in Busan.

At about the same time, the multi-awarded Himig Singers of Davao City swept the First Asian Choir Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from Nov. 2 to 10, winning the top prize in the mixed vocal ensembles category, besting rival groups from China, Malaysia, Russia, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

RP CHOIRS/ A10

Negros pumps bring water up to Afghan hilly farms

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—AN INGENIOUS and inexpensive device that brought potable water to mountainous farming villages in Negros Occidental is expected to produce a similar wonder in hilly farms in war-torn Afghanistan.

The ram pump, produced by a non-government organization based in Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod, is now installed at various points in the Kunduz River Basin in Northern Afghanistan to assist farmers in that region. It is called thus because it pumps water uphill using only the current of the spring or river.

The pumps were developed by the Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation Inc. (AIDFI), one of 10 renewable energy pioneers from all over the world that won the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy in June. (Former US Vice President Al Gore presented the award, which came with a cash prize of 10,000 pounds, in London.)

The project in Afghanistan was contracted by Mercy Corps, which is carrying out a long-term program to assist Afghan farmers using European Union funds, said Dutchman Auke Idzenga.

A development worker who has lived in the Philippines for 16 years, Idzenga heads AIDFI's Appropriate

NEGROS/ A10

JOB Market
Build your future with us

SUNDAY MAGAZINE
What's inside those balikbayan boxes?
Next to Christmas carols, these contraptions announce the advent of the holidays and the start of the Spam diet in most Filipino homes

ACROSS / A15
Pampanga Gov. Ed's quarry tax collection of P88.6M in 95 days equals Lapid's in 3 years

NEWS / A2
The family of Dulce Saguisag requests that, instead of flowers, donations be made to the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines, Bosom Buddies, or the I Can Serve Foundation

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2007

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/nation

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Catapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUCDALA, PDI RESEARCH/11/10/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

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Palace to Erap: Do your part

Malacañang reminds him of pardon terms but won't interfere in forfeiture

WHAT'S INSIDE

ENVIRONMENT groups protest sea experiment /A7

SEN. ENRILE not our puppet, says Palace /A9

LANDBANK union execs told to answer raps /A11

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY APPEALED TO PARdoned former President Joseph Estrada to comply with the order of the Sandiganbayan regarding the forfeiture of his bank accounts and assets illegally acquired during his short-lived presidency.

But Secretary Cerge Remonde said Malacañang would not interfere with the process.

"We will leave that to the court. We have exercised this executive clemency but ultimately the implementation of the order of the court, that's for the judiciary," said Remonde.

Remonde said the pardon extended to Estrada on Oct. 25, following six years of detention, trial and conviction for plunder, only pertained to freeing him from the criminal aspect of the case.

"The pardon is silent about other things," he said.

Asked if President Arroyo felt betrayed by Estrada, he said: "We have done our part. We hope that he also does his part ... whatever that is."

Press Secretary Ignacio R. Bunye, who announced the pardon, had said that although Estrada had been "restored to his civil and political rights," the pardon stated that "The forfeitures imposed by the Sandiganbayan remain in force and in full, including all writs and processes issued by the Sandiganbayan in pursuance hereof, except for the bank account(s) he owned before his tenure as President."

Special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said yesterday Estrada's move to quash the order of the Sandiganbayan to seize his property could be used as a ground to recall his pardon.

"Let the defense and Estrada make all of these pronouncements and moves. They're providing the prosecution grounds to move for the recall of the pardon."

Ignacio said the pardon was subject to certain conditions, including the fact that the forfeiture should proceed.

"It appears that he's not accepting the terms and conditions of the pardon," the special prosecutor said in an interview by phone.

Properties attached

Estrada, through his lawyers, filed a motion on Friday to quash the order of the antigraft court to hand over more than P700 million and a house and lot in New Manila, Quezon City, to the government.

They argued that the writs of execution included property not mentioned in the Sandiganbayan's Sept. 12 decision.

The decision specified the P545,291,000 deposited in the Muslim Youth Foundation, the P189,700,000 deposited in the Jose Velarde account and the so-called Boracay Mansion as the subjects of forfeiture.

But in the writs, the court said other pieces of property that were disposable and not covered by the execution could be attached by the sheriff if Estrada could not pay all or part of his obligations.

This was an additional penalty on Estrada, his lawyers said.

Parola sortie

Estrada meanwhile, continued his visits to depressed areas in Manila yesterday, bringing his motorcade through the Parola compound in Tondo. He was accompanied by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim; his wife former Sen. Loi Ejercito, his son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and others.

Estrada denied he was campaigning for the 2010 presidential election. He is not even running, he said.

The sorties, he said, were just his way of thanking his supporters.

When asked by reporters if he thought the charges of bribery against President Arroyo were true, Estrada said it would be up to the Senate to find out. *Kung hindi pa sa Senado, wala na tayong pagasa malaman yan* (If not for the Senate, we may never know the truth)."

President Arroyo, in a speech the day Estrada was freed, said she expected the grant of executive clemency to be "debated, welcomed, criticized and given all sorts of meanings and motives."

"If I have shown concern for the personal circumstances of the former president, it is not a sign of diminished determination to see justice done. It is out of sensitivity to the feelings of the segments of our *masa* who continue to identify with his personal circumstances," she said. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Beverly T. Natividad*

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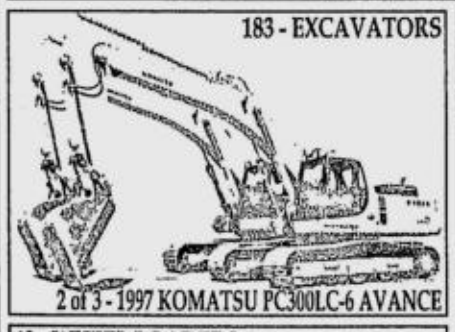
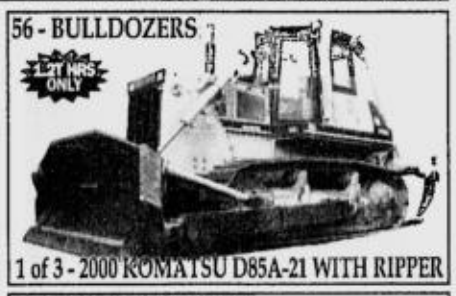
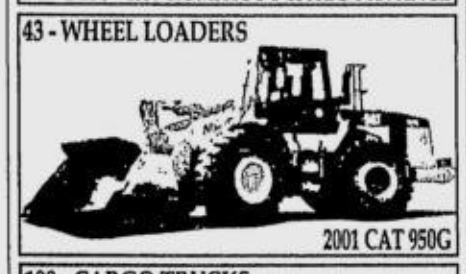
173 - 10W DUMP TRUCKS

2 of 4 - ISUZU GIGA CXM DUMP TRUCKS

183 - EXCAVATORS

2 of 3 - 1997 KOMATSU PC300LC-6 AVANCE

56 - BULLDOZERS

1 of 3 - 2000 KOMATSU D85A-21 WITH RIPPER

43 - WHEEL LOADERS

2001 CAT 950G

48 - MOTOR GRADERS

MITSUBISHI MG330E

190 - CARGO TRUCKS

1 of 4 - ISUZU GIGA CYZ CARGO TRUCKS

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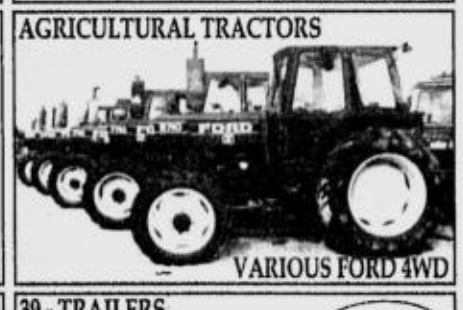
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Saguisag, driver doing better—docs

By Julie M. Aurelio

FORMER SEN. RENE SAGUISAG AND HIS driver will remain in the intensive care unit of the Makati Medical Center although doctors are optimistic their condition is improving.

In a medical bulletin yesterday, doctors said the Saguisag's condition was stabilizing and he was able to communicate better with his family.

"He is very communicative, better than he was the day before. He is also making eye contact with his visitors," said Dr. Eric Nubla of the MMC's patient relations' office.

Nubla said a team of doctors will assess the condition of Saguisag and that of his driver, Felipe Calvario, next week.

An improvement in Saguisag's condition would determine if he could be transferred to a regular room.

"We are taking the improvement of his health one day at a time...There is reason to be optimistic," Nubla said.

He is now communicating with his family by writing notes and he is able to nod in response to questions, Nubla said.

Saguisag has been able to recognize members of his family and close friends since opening his eyes on Friday.

"He has always been very lucid. He even points to some of the equipment in his room," Nubla said.

A tube attached to a respirator to help him breathe, however, prevents Saguisag from talking, the doctor said.

Doctors said it could take at least four weeks for the seven fractured ribs on Saguisag's left side to heal.

As of now, Nubla said doctors don't see a need for Saguisag to undergo surgery.

Asked if Saguisag had been told of his wife Dulce's death, Nubla said: "I am not aware of him asking. Let us leave that for the family to take care of. He needs to recover."

Calvario is similarly doing well and responding to treatment, he said.

"Mr. Calvario is also breathing better than he was before," Nubla said.

Calvario last week underwent a tracheostomy, a procedure in which a tube is inserted in the trachea, to help him breathe better.

Saguisag's wife, Dulce, was killed in the early morning accident at the intersection of Osmeña Highway and Arnaiz Avenue on Thursday. A female dance instructor, Rea Imelda Obong, suffered minor injuries. She was discharged from the hospital the same day.

The Saguisag family announced that Dulce's interment will be on Friday, Nov. 16, at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, after the 8 a.m. Mass at St. Scholastica's chapel. Until then, Masses for Dulce will be said every day at 8 p.m. at the chapel.

Oil firms hike gas, LPG prices

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER HOLDING OFF ANY INcrease in pump prices for more than two weeks, local oil firms finally succumbed to world price pressures, jacking up gasoline and kerosene prices by P1 a liter and diesel prices by 50 centavos a liter.

New oil player Flying V started the round of increases at 12:01 a.m. yesterday, followed by Eastern Petroleum Corp. at 6 a.m.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. adjusted its gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices at noon yesterday, six hours after raising the price of its liquefied petroleum gas by P1.12 a kilogram.

Petron Corp. raised its gasoline and kerosene prices by P1 and LPG by P1.12 at 4 p.m. yesterday.

Total (Philippines) Corp. also increased LPG prices at 6 a.m. yesterday.

Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. and PTT Philippines Corp. will raise pump prices by the same levels at 12:01 a.m. and 6 a.m. today, respectively, while Seaoil Philippines Inc. will implement its increase at 6 a.m. tomorrow.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that as of Nov. 6, the regional benchmark Dubai crude averaged $85.58 a barrel from only $77.12 a barrel last month.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products skyrocketed to an average of $98.32 a barrel from the October average of $88.71 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel surged to an average of $107.97 a barrel in the first six days of November, up from an average of $95.47 a barrel in October.

The international contract price of LPG hit $747.50 per metric ton (MT) this month—the highest price ever recorded for the product—from $657.50 per MT in October.

The latest price adjustment was the 15th for gasoline for a total of P8.50 a liter, the 12th for diesel for a total of P6 a liter, and the 12th for kerosene for a total of P6.50 a liter.

Since the start of the year, LPG prices have risen 12 times by a total of P8.96 a kilo, but have also gone down seven times by a total of P3.36 a kilo, including VAT.

The price hike brought premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P41.73 and P44.76 a liter, diesel to between P34.43 and P37.53 a liter, kerosene to between P39.15 and P40.91 a liter, and 11-kilogram LPG cylinders to between P517.40 and P571.32.

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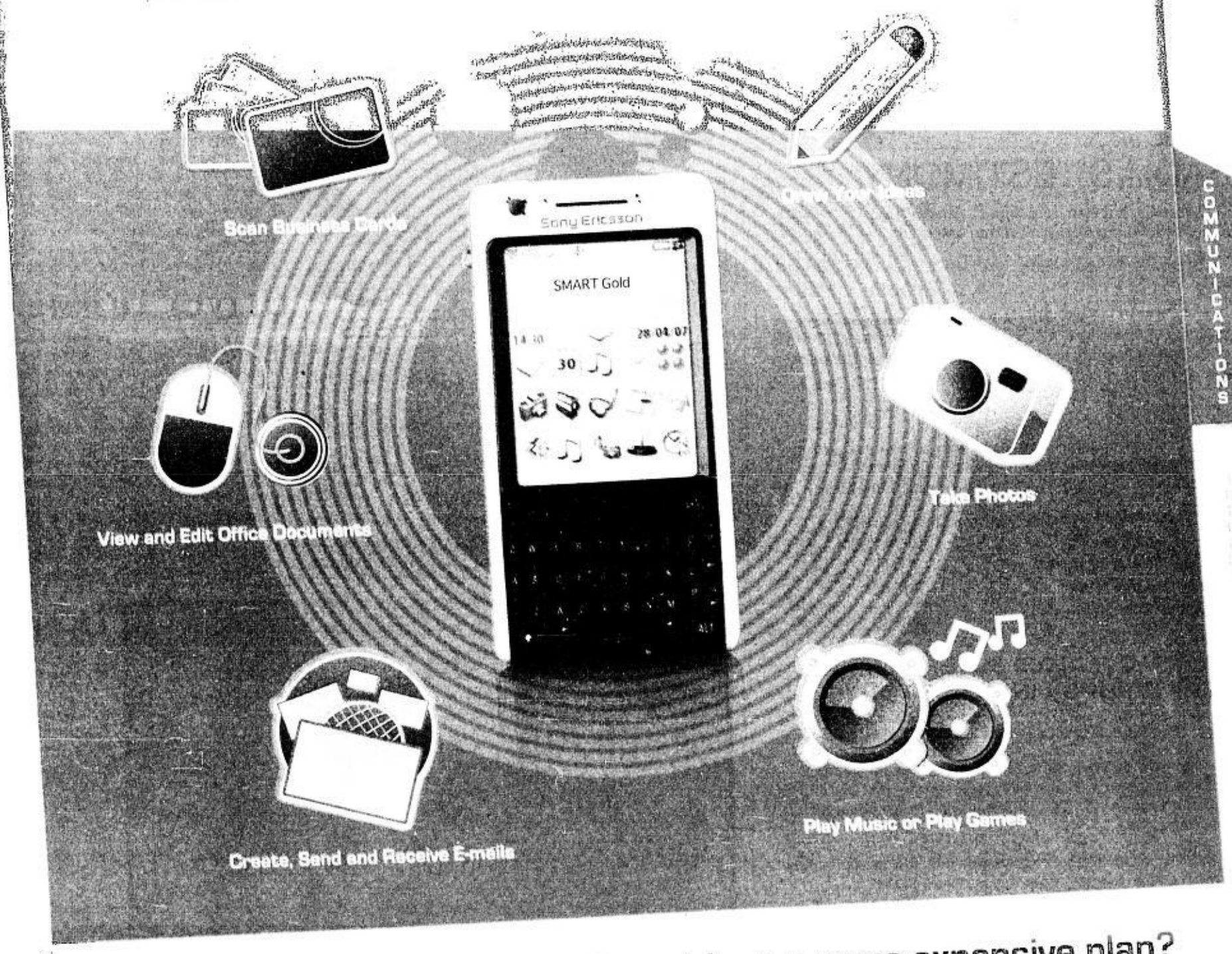

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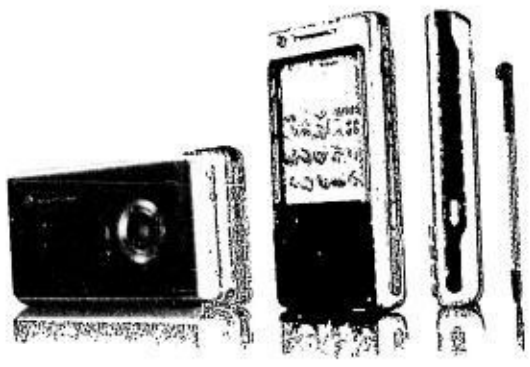

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Young suicide laid to rest after Church gives blessing

By Jeffrey M. Tupas and Germelina Lacorte
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—MORE than a hundred children, most of them friends and classmates, cried as 12-year-old suicide Mariannet Amper was laid to rest at the Ma-a public cemetery at 3 p.m. yesterday.

The Catholic Church, which initially hesitated to grant the family's request for a blessing, gave her full funeral rites.

In the past, the Church has denied religious rites to members who took their own lives. But the case of young Mariannet, who hanged herself because of her family's depressing poverty, had touched the heart and conscience of the nation.

During his homily, Fr. Zenon Ampong, parish priest of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Barangay Ma-a, stressed that the Church never condones suicide.

"The Catholic Church reminds its people that resorting to suicide is never tolerated. The life that we have right now is not ours but God's. It is only God who can take it from us," Ampong said.

But he said Mariannet's death was the result of the sins of other people. "Every death leaves a message to the living and these are realities that we have to accept, no matter how challenging and hard they are," Ampong said.

Ampong said the world had been overwhelmed by the sins of the people against others, and this had been paid for with Mariannet's life.

"Why did she have to die this way is the question now," Ampong said.

Mariannet hanged herself on Nov. 2 after her father told her he did not have P100 she needed for a school project. Under her pillow was found an unsent letter to the TV show "Wish Ko Lang." In it, Mariannet wished for a bicycle, a school bag and jobs for her parents.

THE RELATIVES of Mariannet Amper are inconsolable just before she was laid to rest yesterday. BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Penelope Magtabog, Mariannet's teacher, said the death of the girl dangled a lot of questions and warnings before the public.

"She was too young to think about poverty and became too affected by it. We are really saddened by this as we are concerned about its effects on the other children, especially her friends and classmates," Magtabog said.

She said the school would conduct counseling sessions for their students.

The young girl's death, however, also brought out many statements of hope.

"*Bahala'g pobre, dili lang gyud ta muundang sa pagpaningkamot kay naa pa may paglaum gyud ba ug maningkamot lang gyud tang tanan* (Even if we are poor, we should not stop striving because there is hope if we try hard)," said one 24-year-old mother of three.

A classmate, Mirasol Malbas, said Mariannet came to her in a dream. She said Mariannet was crying and asked for help. "I cried after that and prayed for her. I hope she is okay now."

Mary Riza Jumawan, 12, Mariannet's classmate, said the status of her family now was something that would never push her to harm herself.

"*Pobre pud mi pero dili man ko maghikog kay gusto pa ko mueskwela ug mahimo nga maestra. Ug maglisod kog eskwela sa sunod, magworking student na lang ko para makahuman gyud, murag sa akong mga ate* (We're also poor but I will not kill my self because I still want to study and be a teacher. If I can't go to school, I'll work until I finish my studies)," said Jumawan.

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NORMANDY G. DOmingo, a high school teacher from Urdaneta City, has been diagnosed with ameloblastoma, described as a "rare, benign tumor of the odontogenic epithelium (the cells that create the enamel of the teeth during development)."

Ameloblastoma progresses slowly and tumors can cause severe abnormalities of the face and jaw. Additionally, because abnormal cell growth easily infiltrates and destroys surrounding bony tissue, wide surgical excision and jaw reconstruction with a titanium plate are required to treat this disorder.

Domingo is one of four indigent patients who need immediate surgery. The titanium plates and other materials needed for the bone graft, as well as the hospital fees, will cost P150,000 per patient. Volunteer surgeons will do the operations for free.

Donors may call Dr. Grace C. Bush of the Dr. Grace C. Bush Foundation Inc. at mobile no. 0917-839-3392 or landline 815-6172 and 817-4030.

Laser Biochelation for Diabetes

The increasing incidence of diabetes is a worldwide trend, the reason why WHO has declared Nov 15 as World Diabetes Day considering it's additional demand for health service for each country, But the diabetic condition is not limited within itself, knowing the multitude of complications which eventually affects the patient the likes of risk for stroke and heart attack, hypertension, peripheral arterial disease, and the so expensive chronic renal failure, which an ordinary Filipino cannot afford.

In natural medicine not all diabetes are the same, there could just be a temporary elevation of blood sugar due to hormonal imbalance, liver problem or toxic colon which may be addressed properly the natural way by treating the root cause of the problem and not merely controlling the symptoms or elevation of blood sugar. In such a way daily medication may be minimized or totally averted just trough proper diet or nutrition and lifestyle of course. The root cause of the disease or of diabetes may be identified through the natural executive check up being introduced by BioVitale Holistic Center (4487625)

One innovation locally available is the LASER BIOCHELATION a Russian technology also available at BioVitale which helps to decrease abnormal blood levels of blood sugar, Creatinine for kidney problem, cholesterol and uric acid, which may all be elevated in the case of diabetic patient. The mechanism is to improve the circulation so it helps also cases of angina or heart disease, peripheral arterial disease the likes of chronic claudication, feeling of numbness or cramps on the extremities. Laser Biochelation has the dual action of disintegrating the vascular, in particular arterial obstructions and thinning of blood which both compromises one's circulation.

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Ranking Comelec exec shot

By Tina G. Santos

A RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE COMMISsion on Elections was shot dead last night on a Manila street corner.

Comelec chief legal officer Alioden Dalaig was shot in the chest with a .45-cal. pistol at the corner of Pedro Gil and M. H. del Pilar streets at 7:15 p.m., police said.

He was rushed to the Ospital ng Maynila but was pronounced dead on arrival by doctors.

Dalaig was shot outside the Hyatt Hotel and Casino but it was not known if he had come from the place. He had around P300,000 in his pocket, which was turned over to his family, Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said at the hospital.

Police initially ruled out robbery as the motive for the killing since the cash and the victim's cell phone were untouched. SPO4 Alfredo de la Rosa of the Manila police district homicide division said a witness saw a lone gunman fleeing on foot.

Dalaig's wife Filomena told police at the hospital that her husband had been receiving death threats.

Dalaig, 64, was a director IV at the Comelec's law department. He had been with the Comelec 30 years starting out as a junior lawyer.

Jimenez said Dalaig was well-liked by his colleagues and was due to retire soon. He said he knew nothing about Dalaig receiving threats.

Dalaig was in the news recently after Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol was placed under his custody in his Comelec office while Bedol prepared to make bail in the case filed against him for election irregularities in Maguindanao during the May elections.

Bedol has since disappeared and is the object of a police manhunt to get him to serve the six-month jail term meted out to him by the Comelec for contempt in connection with his failure to appear at the hearings on poll irregularities.

Comelec search panel slammed

AN ANTIGRAFT WATCHDOG HAS URGED Malacañang to create a search panel that is beyond reproach if it wants to appoint a Commission on Elections (Comelec) chair who is also beyond reproach.

The Center for Anti-Graft and Corruption Prevention Inc. (The Center) said that to be able to choose a trustworthy Comelec chair, President Macapagal-Arroyo must form a search committee that is in itself beyond reproach so that whoever it chooses to head the Comelec would have credibility with the public.

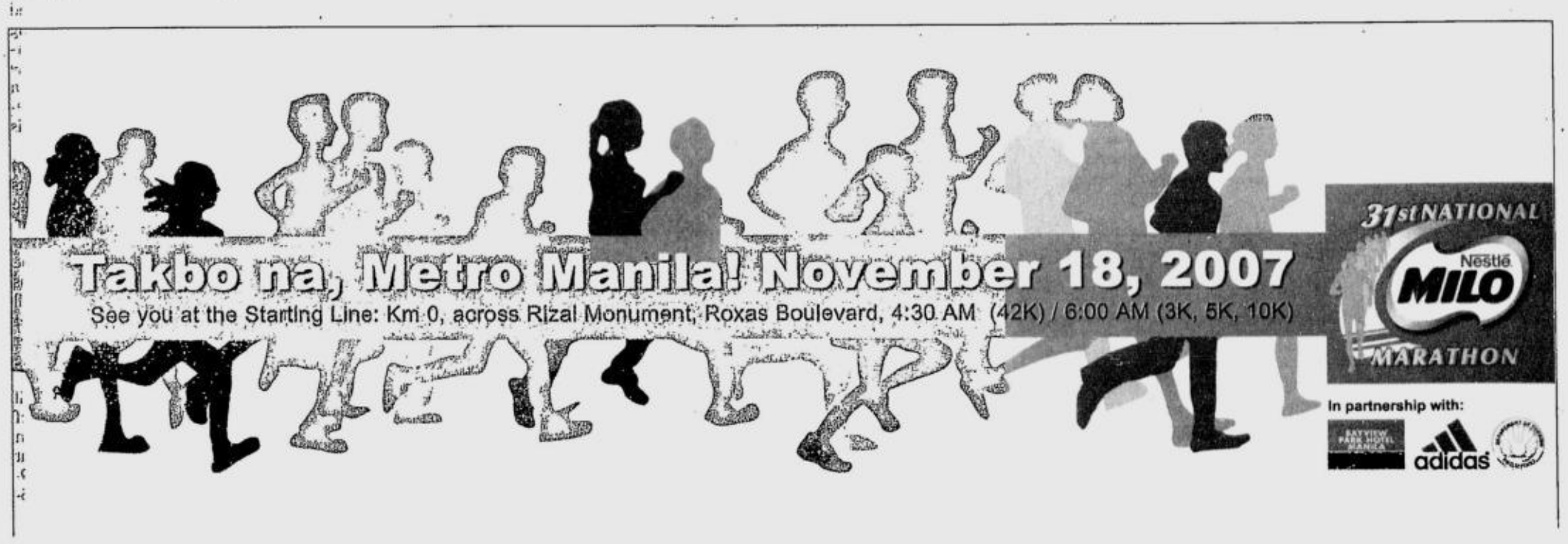
The group has proposed that Ms Arroyo, as the appointing authority, include in the search panel someone from the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

The Center has opposed the search panel formed by Ms Arroyo which is composed of lawyer Bernardino Abes, businessman Jose Concepcion and labor leader Democrito Mendoza.

"We have a deep fear that they could not freely withstand any secret and crucial instructions to protect the desires and interests of the appointing authority," Lane Afable, The Center's secretary general, said in a statement.

The Center questioned Abes' historic family ties with the Arroyos, Concepcion's alleged election trending in favor of certain candidates as the former head of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), and Mendoza's strong and open support for Ms Arroyo in the recent elections.

"Most likely, if all negative reports against the three are true, the panel would just be a stamp pad and the selection process for the Comelec chairman would look like another Korean zarzuela presented before gullible Filipinos," Afable said. *Beverly T. Natividad*



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PUPILS' PET: A lively, colorful and learning time was had by all when Sonia Roco came to read a story to about 40 kids at the INQUIRER head office in Makati City. Trained in drama/speech and a teacher by profession, the widow of Sen. Raul Roco morphed into a candidate in the last elections for the Senate. ROMY HOMILLADA

Sonia Roco adds ...

From page A1

backdrop, she read the story, pausing once in a while to clarify details or to ask and answer questions from the audience. She also gave each of the children a cardboard letter and asked them to spell out the words mentioned in the story.

"The Alphabet Tree" tells the story of letters resting on the leaves of a tree. A ladybug and a caterpillar order the letters to come together and form words and sentences.

Reading 101

"I chose this story because it's the basis for reading," Roco said, adding that people may know how to read but may not actually comprehend the words on the page. "I mean, what is the use of putting words together if the readers don't even understand?"

This was why, after reading the story, Roco asked for volunteers to play the characters in the story. She even provided them with scripts, this time in Filipino, which she wrote herself.

During the activity, the wings were attached to a boy, who played the ladybug. The unraveled wreath was held by seven children who played the caterpillar.

Asked how long she had to prepare for the session, Roco said: "Just this morning. I made some of the props in the car!"

Where's the bus?

Not to be outdone, 12-year-old Bernadine L. Bacolod, who won a storytelling contest, acted out Rene O. Villanueva's "Ang Barumbadong Bus."

She bested seven other children representing 36 public schools in Pasig and San Juan.

Bacolod came dressed up as a bus driver, complete with a towel around her neck and holding bus tickets. She interacted with the audience, pretending they were riding a bus and even asked them: "Where do you want to get off?"

"I love reading about science—both fiction and nonfiction because it stretches my imagination," she said.

The Read-Along program, which started in May and aims to impart the love of reading to children, also featured returning Alitaptap reader Rich Rodriguez and child storyteller champion Bacolod.

Throwing tantrums

Rich Rodriguez read Joy Berry's "A Book About Throwing Tantrums." In the story, a girl named Annie finds a cure for her tantrums—by reading.

The audience couldn't help but agree.

Schoolteacher Marie Rafols, who has attended 10 Read-Along sessions with her 4-year-old daughter Angela, said: "I think it is important to teach children the joy of reading even at a young age. When they meet and see other young readers, they realize that reading is not limited to adults."

Nine-year-old Alvin Y. Pagamocan, who has been to five Read-Along sessions, said: "I keep coming back because it's fun," he said. "I learn a lot here."

Celebrity reader list

Yesterday's session, hosted by INQUIRER Libre editor in chief Chito de la Vega, was sponsored by Scholastic, Krispy Kreme, Hands On Manila and Digna Aquino, Library Hub Coordinator of the Division of Pasig and San Juan cities.

Past celebrity readers included Dingdong Dantes, Manilyn Reynes, Sam Concepcion, Cheska Ortega, University of the Philippines summa cum laude graduate Mikaela Irene Fudolig, Olsen Racela, Miss Earth-Philippines 2007 Jean Harn, Little Earth Angel winner Denisse Mikaela Abuan, Bernard Joecel "Tolits" Forbes and celebrities who are also children's book authors, Christine Bersola-Babao and Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan.

Pangilinan received a citation from the Catholic Mass Media Awards for her children's book "Super Benj," a story about trust in God, the importance of family and the power of prayer in a family's spiritual life.

Donita Rose

She returns as featured reader in the next Read-Along session on Nov. 17 at the National Book Store in Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Donita Rose is scheduled to read on the Nov. 24 session at the INQUIRER office on Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City. The Dec. 1 session at the National Book Store in Quezon Avenue will feature actor Diether Ocampo.

With a report from Alda Franz Quodala, Inquirer Research

(Interested parties may call Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at Tel. No. 897-8808, local 329. Those interested in donating books to the program may send an e-mail to inquirer-readalong@inquirer.com.ph.)

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THE 2007 PEF NATIONAL POVERTY MAP
CREATIVE WRITING & PHOTO ESSAY CONTESTS

SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 23, 2007

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The 2007 PEF Poverty Map Creative Writing and Photo Essay Contests is EXTENDED!
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JOIN US! The PEF Philippine Poverty Map Launching

The recently updated 2007 PEF National Poverty Map will be launched to the public on **December 4, 2007 during the Social Development Week (December 3-6) at the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City.**

The National Poverty Map is a guide in providing meaningful interventions and partnerships to help poor communities. Through the Poverty Map, PEF aims to bring the valuable information to the fore, to get it out to those who have a stake in the different provinces, to those who believe that civil society, government and the private sectors are true partners in social development.

Not really a writer? Can't take a photograph?
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And if your friend or classmate wins, YOU GET TO GO to wherever he/she chooses ABSOLUTELY FREE!!!

MECHANICS:

1. Promote, encourage and convince your friends to join the contests.
2. Upon submission, text your and your friend/classmate's complete name and the title of his/her entry at 0915 4356994 (GLOBE) or 09285804356 (SMART).
3. The Contest Secretariat will validate your information.
4. Upon validation, we will send you Php 150.00 worth of pre-paid loads!
5. There is no limit to the number of friends/classmates that you can refer, so the more you promote, the more loads you get!
6. If one of your referrals wins, you will be able to go with him/her to the priority province of their choosing (free air fare, lodging, meals and Php 1,000.00 pocket money).
7. All prizes are not convertible to cash. The developmental tour package must be availed within 90 days after the contest finals.

For details of contest mechanics, please visit the PEF website www.pef.ph
Or contact: THE 2007 PEF NATIONALPOVERTY MAP CONTESTS SECRETARIAT
2/F Room 203, #59 C. Salvador St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City
(02) 433 2249 • 0915.4356994 (GLOBE) / 0928.5804356 (SMART) • contest.secretariat@pef.ph

The Peace Equity Access for Community Empowerment Foundation, Inc. (or Peace and Equity Foundation, PEF) is a non-stock, non-profit organization founded in October 2001 to empower the poor and marginalized communities in Philippine society.

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SUBJECTS	REVIEWERS
POLITICAL LAW	: Atty. Edwin Sandoval : Justice Oswaldo Agcaoili : Atty. Jacinto Jimenez : Atty. Nicanor Padilla, Jr.
LABOR LAW	: Atty. Oswald Lorenzo : Atty. Salvador Poquiz
CIVIL LAW	: Justice Amelita Tolentino : Dean Augusto Aligada : Dean Eduardo Abella : Dean Michael Moralde
CONFLICT OF LAWS	: Dean Amado Valdez
LAND TITLES & DEEDS	: Dir. Ramon Cassanova : Atty. Ariel Joseph Arias
TAXATION LAW	: Dean Joe-Santos Bisquera : Atty. Nicasio Cabaneiro : Atty. Nicanor Padilla, Jr.
MERCANTILE LAW	: Dean Joe-Santos Bisquera : Dean Eduardo Abella : Atty. Nicanor Padilla, Jr.
CRIMINAL LAW	: Justice Rodolfo Palattao : Dean Carlos Ortega : Judge Pedro Laggui : Judge Ma. Cristina Cornejo : Fiscal Danilo Formoso : Atty. Ariel Joseph Arias
REMEDIAL LAW	: Justice Nicolas Lapeña, Jr. : Justice Amelita Tolentino : Judge Pedro Laggui : Judge Ma. Cristina Cornejo : Dean Willard Riano : Dean Michael Moralde : Fiscal Danilo Formoso
LEGAL ETHICS	: Justice Nicolas Lapeña Jr. : Dean Joe-Santos Bisquera
LEGAL FORMS	: Dean Eduardo Abella

Eco groups protest Sulu Sea experiment

By Amy R. Remo and Jerome Aning

TWO MORE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS have joined the mounting clamor to stop the planned dumping of urea in Philippine waters, in a bid to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (Searice) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) yesterday urged the government to withhold approval on the Ocean Nourishment project of Australia-based Ocean Nourishment Corp. (ONC).

The Australian company has proposed conducting a large-scale field experiment on its patented urea fertilization technology in the Sulu Sea.

The project is being eyed as an answer to climate change.

According to Searice, the project would involve the dumping of urea granules into the ocean to stimulate the growth of phytoplankton, which would eventually remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

"There are serious concerns on the scientific basis of ocean fertilization technology, whether involving nitrogen (urea), iron or other large-scale addition of nutrients," Searice said in a petition.

Urea is an organic compound derived from ammonia (NH_3) and carbon dioxide (CO_2). Theoretically, urea (acting much like fertilizer) will induce algal blooms. The plankton will multiply in the nitrogen-enriched waters and absorb carbon dioxide. When they die, the plankton will sink to the bottom of the sea taking the carbon dioxide with them.

But WWF said urea and nitrogen runoff from agricultural lands have historically been known to cause toxic algal blooms such as red tide.

WWF thus, urged extreme caution in testing the potentially risky technology in natural marine ecosystems, especially in critical biodiversity areas such as the Sulu Sea, home to the country's richest fishing grounds and the Tubbataha Reefs, a World Heritage Site.

"The potential environmental impact of dumping 500 ton of urea into the sea is just too great. We should be wary of quick-fix solutions such as this to mitigate climate change," WWF Asia Pacific energy policy coordinator Rafael Senga said in a statement posted on the group's website www.wwf.org.ph.

"This is a huge concern for us ... This will surely have damaging environmental impacts on both the Sulu and Celebes seas," said WWF's Tawi-Tawi Project manager Filemon Romero.

Romero said that over-fertilization of the sea would have on adverse impact on seaweed farms, the main source of livelihood for the people.

"Think about it: Tens of millions of people depend on the Sulu Sea for food—you cannot just experiment with their lives," Romero said.

But ONC said it had received the go-signal from the Philippine government to release 500 ton of granulated urea into the Sulu Sea to test its new technology for carbon sequestration and ocean fertilization.

WWF countered the government should carefully evaluate the possible impact of ONC's planned urea dump to avert an environmental disaster.

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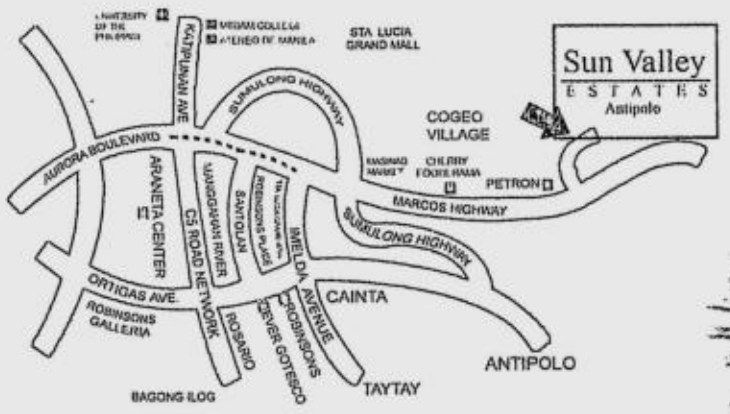

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LEGAL NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 24, considered and declared today, November 8, 2007 the auction of the properties of Silahis International Hotel, Inc. on November 7, 2007 as "a blatant disregard by the respondents (City of Manila) of the Stay Order of this Court."

The Regional Trial Court's aforesaid order of November 8, 2007 and its related preceding order of Octobe 25, 2007 are quoted hereunder:

"IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITIONFOR CORPORATE REHABILITATION/WITH PRAYER FOR SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS OF SILAHIS INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, INC.,

Civil Case No. 04-111180

SILAHIS INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, INC.,
Petitioner.
x----------x.

ORDER

Acting on the Very Urgent Omnibus Motion filed by petitioner through counsel, respondents are hereby directed to file their comment to the same within five (5) days from receipt of this order.

Relative to the relief sought for in the motion directing the annotation on Transfer Certificate of Title Nos. 113016 to 113022 of this Honorable Court's Stay Order dated 14 October 2004 and subsequent orders dated 25 September 2007 and October 25, 2007, considering the blatant disregard by the respondents of the Stay Order of this court, the prayer is hereby granted.

The Register of Deeds of Manila is hereby directed to annotate on Transfer Certificate of Title Nos. 113016 to 113022 the Stay Order dated October 25, 2004 and the subsequent orders dated September 25, 2007 and October 25, 2007, immediately upon receipt hereof.

SO ORDERED.
Manila, Philippines, November 8, 2007."

(Sgd.) ANTONIO M. EUGENIO, JR.
Judge

ORDER

Acting on the Urgent Ex-Parte Motion to Compel City of Manila to Comply/Honor Order dated September 25, 2007 and Supplement To Urgent Ex-parte Motion filed by petitioner, the Court hereby reiterates the said Order of the Honorable Caroline Riera Colasito, Pairing Judge of this Court, quoted hereunder:

"WHEREFORE, the Court partially grants the motion. The City of Manila is directed to respect the Stay Order issued by this court dated October 18, 2004 and to hold in abeyance the conduct of any sale by public auction on the properties of the petitioner, subject of the motion. All other issues not passed upon herein are to be threshed out in the hearing of the incidents to be held on October 5, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. before the Presiding Judge of Branch 24, of this Court." (underscoring supplied)

SO ORDERED."

And considering further the number of incidents pending before this Court relative to petitioner's rehabilitation the Court therefore directs the City of Manila, its Officers and Employees to honor and comply with the aforesaid Order until resolution of all pending issues and/or until such time that this Court lifts the Stay Order or the Supreme Court acts with finality on the appeal of the petitioner pending before it.

SO ORDERED.
Manila, Philippines, October 25, 2007."

(Sgd.) ANTONIO M. EUGENIO, JR.
Judge

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- MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY
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- MIDWIFERY
- HOTEL AND RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT
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OUR LADY OF FATIMA UNIVERSITY

Once 'ugly' Pinoy is top fund raiser for 'Smile'

From page A1

who have been treated by Operation Smile since the movement was started in the Philippines in 1982 by plastic surgeon Dr. William P. Magee Jr. and his wife, Kathleen, a nurse and social worker.

Caparas said he still cannot believe how he can now speak with such passion and confidence when there was a time he did not dare venture out of his rented room in a shanty in Sta. Ana, Manila, for fear of being stared at and ridiculed.

"*Pangit*" (ugly) and "*babalu*" (after a comedian with a prominent jaw) were just some of the ugly invectives thrown at him the few times he dared go out, with fingers pointed at the two-pound tumor jutting out of his jaw and almost touching his chest.

Caparas recalled that it was during a summer visit to his hometown of Sipalay, Negros Occidental, in 1981 that his mother noticed a grape-sized growth in the middle of his chin and convinced him to see a doctor.

JOSE CAPARAS: He has every reason to smile after he became one of the first beneficiaries of Operation Smile which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Worse off

The 23-year-old was shocked when the doctor told him that it was a tumor and that it had to be removed immediately.

The surgery, however, did more harm than good.

Caparas was in constant pain. He could not walk for a month after the surgery because of the pain from his hip, where doctors got the bone to graft to his chin. And three months after the operation, the tumor reappeared.

Caparas, a licensed seaman, was in Manila trying to find a job on board a ship at the time. His initial reaction was to deny that anything was wrong despite the fact that just six months after the tumor reappeared, it grew to three times the size of his normal chin.

In denial

"For more than a year, I denied I had a problem. I just thought that I was dreaming a bad dream that will go away tomorrow. But it never went away," Caparas said.

And the nightmare was just beginning.

As the tumor got bigger, he kept to himself, doing odd jobs like buying and selling fish just to survive. He cut himself off from his own family because he did not want his eight siblings and his mother to see what he had become.

"I was living a lie. I would write to my mother and tell her that I was just doing fine even if I wasn't. My pride kept me from revealing my problems and I did not want her to see me that way," he said.

For the next two years, Caparas went to one faith healer after another and got involved in cults in a desperate search for a cure.

Finally, he forced himself to go to a hospital in 1984 for another operation. He left the hospital worse than when he came in.

"I almost died because I developed an infection. My tumor ruptured and a mixture of water and blood oozed out of my chin. It smelled terrible," Caparas recalled.

He used sanitary pads to stem the flow and would use up from 12 to 15 in a day. He resorted to wearing a bandana to hide the napkin stuck to his chin.

"I would cry every evening. You could squeeze the tears out of my pillow. I was so depressed, hopeless and helpless and I could not turn to anyone for help," he said.

Caparas said he ended up questioning his faith because he felt that God had abandoned him. At one point he wished for death because he felt so weary.

700 Club

Sometime in June 1985, he switched on the television and saw on the 700 Club a lady who was operated on by Operation Smile. She had a tumor on her face that was even bigger than that of Caparas but she was now smiling before the cameras.

That was the first time that he heard of Operation Smile and for the first time also he felt there was a chance for him.

The next day, he went to the TV station to ask about the program and learned that Operation Smile was sending a mission that November to operate on people with facial deformities.

He patiently waited for November to come around only to be rejected by the doctors who told him that he would die on the operating table if he pursued the surgery. He brushed their warnings aside and waited for the next mission in February.

But when he went to see the Operation Smile doctors in February, he was shocked to see that there were hundreds of others with different deformities—cleft palates and tumors on different parts of the face—on the queue.

There was no hope that he would get examined that day and he went home dejected. The following year, 1987, he again went to the Operation Smile mission. He was down to 99 pounds on a 5'6" frame and still carrying a two-pound tumor.

First in line

As early as 6 a.m. he was at the Martin de Porres Charity Hospital in San Juan because he wanted to be first in line and he was able get a priority number.

But he was moved to exchange his priority number with a much lower one held by a nine-year-old girl with a tumor because he felt that she was worse off.

"I really did not think about it. I just thought then that maybe she had more of a chance of survival than I did, so I gave her my number," he said.

But Caparas did get his chance to be examined and he felt instantly at ease when the doctor looking him over placed a kind hand on his shoulder and asked him for guitar lessons. He later learned that the plastic surgeon examining him was William Magee himself.

"He told me that I was the first priority and that I would be sent to the United States for the surgery. When he said that, I felt like hugging everybody in the room. Finally, my prayers were answered," he said.

8 surgeries

That was the start of a friendship that would guide Caparas through the eight surgeries in the US from 1987 to 1990 that gave him back his face and with it his confidence and self-esteem.

He stayed in Norfolk, Virginia for the next 17 years with Operation Smile, going up the ranks to become head of the speakers' bureau.

Along the way, he found love, got married and now he has a nine-year-old son who only sees his father the way he is today, confident and brimming with life.

"I do not have the right words to express how Operation Smile has changed my life. I can never repay them, especially Bill and Kathy Magee," he said.

Bread business

It was with a heavy heart that he decided last year to leave Operation Smile and concentrate on running his business, a bakery in Virginia Beach called Manila Breadhouse, that delivers bread to more than seven stores in the area.

But that does not mean that he is leaving Operation Smile for good.

He says he will always be a volunteer to help spread the gospel of hope preached and practiced by Operation Smile.

Palace: Enrile not our puppet

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DENIED IT was behind Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's exposé on the alleged involvement of Speaker Jose de Venecia in the North Luzon Railways Corp. (NorthRail) project.

De Venecia has claimed Enrile's "exposé" was in retaliation for his son's revelations of bribery and other anomalies in the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Although an ally of the administration, Enrile is "nobody's puppet," according to Secretary Cerge Remonde, chief of the Presidential Management Staff.

"He is his own man," Remonde, who belongs to President Macapagal-Arroyo's inner circle, said in an interview.

"No one can tell him what to say and not say, what to do or what not to do," he said, adding that President Arroyo was not a "puppet master."

De Venecia has admitted meeting with Enrile about two years ago and telling the latter "not to rock the boat" in the $550-million NorthRail project.

He said he had no interest in NorthRail other than "to appeal to the Chinese government to undertake the project."

The Speaker told Enrile that NorthRail was "not ZTE," which was canceled by the President on Oct. 2 following the controversy that erupted around businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III's exposé.

The Speaker said he believed Enrile's revelation was connected to the testimony of his son, which implicated the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, in the allegedly overpriced ZTE deal.

Trying to distance Malacañang from the word war, Remonde said, "I would like to repeat and I fairly believe that both President Arroyo and Speaker De Venecia are conscious of the fact that maintaining the ruling coalition is not only to their best interest, but most of all to the best interest of our country and our people."

To put an end to talk that the President was pulling the strings in this latest political drama involving so-called allies of Ms Arroyo herself, Remonde called on Enrile to "hold his horses."

"I'm not questioning the right of Senator Enrile to raise those questions because that is the duty and prerogative of every lawmaker, especially senators ... but spare NorthRail," he said.

Remonde said the rumor, if unchallenged, could only derail the completion of the railway project.

He said NorthRail was a priority of the President since it's "important to our vision of having more efficient and effective transportation in the country in the future.

This crucial project should not be trapped in the vicious cycle of politics endemic in the country and it must be finished before 2010, he said.

Hotel Sogo held luncheon meeting with Ms. Earth 2006

Hotel Sogo and Buy and Sell Publication recently hosted a Luncheon meeting in Dampa Restaurant, Libis Quezon City. It was attended by the officers of Hotel Sogo and 2006 Ms. Earth winners.

Photo shows from left to right: Ms. Earth Phil. Air - Krystle Ann Dizon; Ms. Earth 2006 - Hill Hernandez Escobar; Ms. Earth Phil. Water - Catherine Untalan and Ms. Earth Phil. Eco Tourism - Anna Katrina Bautista.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 11, 2007
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

God will raise us up.

It happened that seven brothers were arrested with their mother. The king had them scourged and flogged to force them to eat the flesh of a pig which was prohibited by the Law.

One of them, speaking in behalf of all, said, "What do you want to find out from us? We are prepared to die right now rather than break the law of our ancestors."

At the moment of his last breath, he said, "Murderer, you now dismiss us from life, but the King of the world will raise us up. He will give us eternal life since we die for his laws."

After this, they punished the third. He stuck his tongue out when asked to, bravely stretched forth his hands, and even had the courage to say: "I have received these limbs from God, but for love of his laws I now consider them as nothing. For I hope to recover them from God." The king and his court were touched by the courage of this young man, so unconcerned about his own sufferings.

When this one was dead, they subjected the fourth to the same torture. At the point of death, he cried out, "I would rather die at the hands of men, and wait for the promises of God who will raise us up; you, however, shall have no part in the resurrection of life."

2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

May the Lord strengthen you.

May Christ Jesus our Lord who has loved us, may God our Father, who in his mercy gives us everlasting comfort and true hope, strengthen you. May he encourage your hearts and make you steadfast in every good work and word.

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the Word of God may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere as it was with you. May God guard us from wicked and evil people, since not everyone has faith. The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and keep you safe from the Evil One. Besides, we have in the Lord this confidence that you are doing and will continue to do what we order you. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

The God of the living.

Some Sadducees arrived. These people claim that there is no resurrection and they asked Jesus this question, "Master, in the Scripture Moses told us: 'If anyone dies leaving a wife but no children, his brother must take the wife, and the child to be born will be regarded as the child of the deceased man.' Now, there were seven brothers; the first married a wife, but he died without children; and the second and the third took the wife; in fact all seven died leaving no children. Last of all the woman died. On the day of the resurrection, to which of them will the woman be wife? For the seven had her as wife."

And Jesus replied, "Taking husband or wife is proper to people of this world, but for those who are considered worthy of the world to come and of resurrection from the dead, there is no more marriage. Besides, they cannot die for they are like the angels. They too are sons and daughters of God because they are born of the resurrection.

"Yes, the dead will be raised, and even Moses implied it in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. For he is God of the living and not of the dead, and for him all are alive."

Commentary

We hear the gruesome story of the brutal killing of seven brothers and their mother forced to watch them suffer and die. But they all encourage each other to remain faithful and cling to the hope of resurrection and vindication for their integrity. How insignificant are some of our moments of choosing to be faithful to God's Word in comparison! And yet, we have been given the Spirit of God for consolation and also to strengthen us so that we might do justice, preach the gospel in our deeds, and help others to progress in their obedience to the Gospel. The ground line of our lives is that God rules our hearts (where our will is) and that we live loving all others as God has loved us.

We stake our lives on the resurrection. We believe God the Father has raised Jesus from the dead in the power of the Spirit and that we too will be raised by the Father in the power of the Spirit. In fact, we live that resurrection life now in Christ through our baptisms. We do not know what that life will be like but we believe that it will be the fullness of life, as the children of God with Jesus. We live now, our lives given over in sacrifice (made holy) to our God who is the God of the living. We must keep this in mind now—so that when we die, we can reach for this hope with confidence.

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Australian Federal Elections 2007

The Australian Prime Minister announced that the Federal Election will take place on Saturday 24th November 2007. For more information please visit the Australian Electoral Commission website, www.aec.gov.au and the Smartraveller website, www.smartraveller.gov.au, for the latest travel bulletin on the Australian Federal Election.

The Australian Embassy will be open for pre-poll voting during the hours of 8.30am-4.30pm, Monday-Friday from 12-23 November and Election Saturday, 24 November 2007 from 8.30am-4.30pm. The Embassy is located at 23rd Floor of the RCBC Plaza, Tower 2, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. We encourage you to make use of the pre-polling times to avoid queues on Saturday. For further updates, please visit the Australian Embassy Manila website at http://www.philippines.embassy.gov.au/

MANILA WATER SERVICE UPGRADE IN ANTIPOLO CITY

Manila Water will undertake service improvement projects which will cause temporary water supply interruption in the following portions of Antipolo:

Schedule: 10:00 p.m., Monday, November 12, 2007 up to 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 13, 2007.

Affected areas: Barangays San Isidro, Dela Paz, San Luis, Inarawan, Bagong Nayon I and San Juan.

Manila Water Company is advising all residents of the said areas to store enough water to supply their needs during the interruption period.

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DEAN RICARDO L. SADAC
President & Review Director

RP choirs harvest medals in int'l chorale tilts

From page A1

They performed the Visayan folk song *"Usahay"* (Sometimes), "Circle of Life" by Elton John and the gospel hymn "Walls of Jericho."

UE undergrads

The 15-year-old UEC, composed mostly of UE undergraduate students, beat choral groups from the host country, the United States, Russia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, India, Japan, China, Taiwan and Indonesia.

"The victory is sweeter this time because last year there were mostly Asian choirs, there were only two European choirs... Though Asians are really hard to beat, when you add the Europeans, the competition becomes tougher," said Anna Tabita Abeleda-Pequero, the UEC choir master.

The UEC took home the $10,000 grand prize, which the choir plans to use for their European tour next year. They will be taking part in competitions in Spain, Germany, France, Italy, Austria and Hungary.

Darwin Vargas, a bass who doubles as tour manager, said the format of this year's competition was much more difficult.

Two-gold sweep

"Before, it was free programming, it was up to you what you wanted to sing. But this year, there was an obligatory piece, one piece from different periods and there were more international choirs," Vargas said in an interview yesterday, three days after the choir returned from Korea.

Improving on their first-time win last year, a more prepared and more solid-sounding UEC won gold medals in the two categories where they chose to compete. Choirs were given the choice to compete in two of these categories: mixed classical, equal voices (all-male or all-female) classical, pop and ethnic.

They retained the gold medal in the pop category by surprising the audience with unique a capella arrangements of the bossa nova classic "Mas Que Nada" by Sergio Mendes, Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up," the R & B hit "Pon De Replay" by Rihanna, Donna Cruz's "Rain" and "Conga" by the Miami Sound Machine.

The choir then improved on the silver medal they got last year, winning the gold in the classical category. They won for their performance of the required piece *"Exultate Justi in Domino"* by Andreas Hakenberger and three songs of their choice—*"Virga Jesse"* by Anton Bruckner and two Filipino compositions *"Veni Creator Spiritus"* by Alejandro Consolacion II and *"Crucifixus"* by John August Pamintuan.

Appeals to heart

Of the last two pieces, Pequero noted: "It's really different if the song is by a Filipino. Its appeal to the heart is different... you'd see people in the audience crying... I think Filipino artistry is really unique."

The UEC not only succeeded in defending the championship they took last year, they also won the hearts of the audience for their unexpected rendition of pop hits and stirring performance of classical pieces.

Before the Busan competition, the group went on a concert tour around South Korea, which for them was a chance to get reacquainted with the fans they gained after their victory last year.

"They gave us two-minute standing ovations. They would cry over our songs. They'd wait for us to leave the venue, and followed our gala concerts. We were surprised to see Koreans holding up banners that said *"Mahal kita* [I love you]," Vargas said.

Two other RP choices

After the concert series, the UEC headed for Busan for the competition in which two other Filipino choirs were competing. They were the University of the Visayas Chorale (UVC) and the Philippine Male Singers, which also took home runner-up medals in their categories.

UVC won the silver in the ethnic category and the bronze in mixed classical. The all-male Filipino group won bronzes in the equal-voices classical and pop categories.

City councilor Myrna Dalodo-Ortiz, who announced the Himig Singers' victory in the Jakarta tilt last Tuesday, said the news was relayed to her by one of the group's handlers.

"We are very happy for the victory of the group as their victory means the victory of the people of Davao and of the Philippines," Ortiz said.

Jakarta harvest

Other Philippine groups also won top prizes in other categories in the Jakarta tilt.

In the mixed youth choir category, the Lyceum University of the Philippines Chorale took the gold diploma, a mere point away from the Gema Sangkakala Youth Choir of Indonesia, which was declared champion.

The Lyceum Chorale won the silver diploma in the folklore category while the Mandaue City's Mandaue School for the Arts Children's Choir finished second after Indonesia's Voice of YPJ, which was declared champion.

Philippine representatives also performed well in the Asian Open phase of the contest, with Quezon City's Coro de Sta. Cecilia winning the silver diploma in the mixed vocal ensembles category and the Mandaue School for the Arts Children's Choir bagging the gold in the children's choir category.

Much-awarded

The Himig Singers won the National Music Commission for Young Artists awards in 1990 and 1993. It also brought home the Award of the Audience at the 2004 Vivace International Choral Festival in Veszprém, Hungary.

In 1997, the group won first prize in the mixed category and the grand prize in the 26th International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, Austria, garnering the highest rating ever of 99.93 percent in the history of the competition.

IT LOOKS A LOT like ex-President Joseph Estrada is on the campaign trail at the Parola compound in Tondo. But no, he says, he brought a medical mission for the residents to thank them for their support during his six years of house arrest. *(See story on Page A2.)* REM ZAMORA

Negros pumps bring water up to Afghan ...

From page A1

Technology Department.

Power of water

AIDFI's ram pump is powered by the water's natural current. It automatically pushes up a portion of the water flowing through it to very high elevations 24 hours a day, with hardly any maintenance cost, according to Idzenga.

"Our ram pumps can use the power of water flowing in the rivers to lift a small fraction of water over 100 meters vertically, and sometimes over a kilometer to where it is needed," he said.

Idzenga said the ram pump technology was developed 300 years ago. But AIDFI has enhanced the technology using cheap and locally available materials, such as door hinges, to join the pipes that allow the transfer of water up to 200 meters, he said.

The three ram pumps that were installed in the Kunduz River Basin from mid-September to October will be very helpful to farmers of Afghanistan because water is extremely scarce in that country, Idzenga said.

"In Afghanistan, most agricultural lands are rain-fed and, when not cultivated, look like a desert. The soil is still very fertile but 80 percent of the lands are subject to erosion—and this is very visible," Idzenga said.

Only 2 percent of Afghanistan's forest cover is left. The water tables are dropping fast and many people rely on surface water for drinking, he said.

Pumps as solution

Per Idzenga's account, Paul Smith, the manager of Mercy Corps' Catchment Development Program, set up field offices and nurseries in Afghanistan and hired Afghan engineers and agriculturists.

He eventually found that while there was water in the rivers, there was none on the hills that were his target for tree planting.

In looking for a solution to the problem, Smith was drawn to AIDFI's ram pump because of its durability and the ready availability of spare parts in Afghanistan.

Other devices could not make the grade because they were too expensive, not repairable locally—or their suppliers did not want to travel to Afghanistan for installation and technology transfer.

A contract was soon signed with AIDFI for the installation of three ram pumps and the training of Afghan farmers who were to use the pumps for irrigating their hills to grow nuts as well as fruits such as apricots and apples.

The circumstances—including the search for materials, long travel time and security problems—were difficult.

IT WORKS. Ram pump developed by the Bacolod-based NGO, the Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation Inc., works as well in its country of origin as in the Kundez River Basin in Afghanistan to irrigate its hilly farms. Three such pumps are now in operation in that war-torn country. AID

But Idzenga and Felix Inocencio, also of AIDFI, managed to make the three systems work. At the same time, they were able to train the beneficiaries in repair and maintenance, and the Mercy Corps staff in technology.

"The installations can produce more water than was agreed on and expected," Idzenga said. "At the highest site, the water is pushed up to 145 meters at a volume of 5,200 liters per day—more than enough to [irrigate] the planted trees on five hectares of land."

Tremendous potential

Smith and AIDFI are studying a continuation of the technology in Afghanistan because of the tremendous potential of the ram pump, Idzenga said.

One idea under consideration is to have a technical person from Afghanistan come to Bacolod for a longer training period in installing, operating, repairing and maintaining the pump, he said.

After the training period, AIDFI will send ram models from Bacolod for fabrication in Afghanistan.

In the long term, the idea is to totally transfer manufacturing to an entrepreneur in Afghanistan, Idzenga said.

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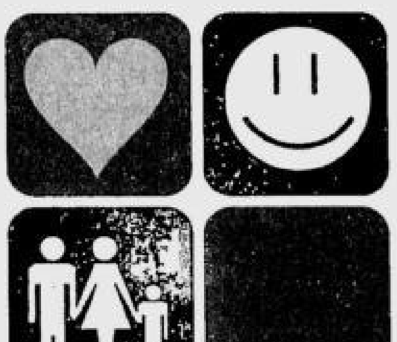

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Landbank union execs told to answer raps

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN HAS ordered the Land Bank of the Philippines Employees Association national executive board (LBPEA-NEB) to answer within 10 days charges it violated Republic Act No. 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act) and RA 9184 (New Procurement Law of 2004).

Aleu A. Amante, Ombudsman director for PIAB-C, found grounds to proceed with the preliminary investigation of the case and ordered the association's officials to file their counter-affidavit.

The criminal charges stemmed from the complaint of 36 LBPEA members led by Aldo Filomeno on the awarding of the employee association's P336-million health insurance contract from 2004 to 2008 to Maxicare Healthcare Corp. without a public bidding. The employees also charged the contract was substandard and gave Maxicare a monopoly.

The respondents were Maria Lourdes Diaz-Pineda, LBPEA-NEB national president; Marcos Rabano and Garizalde Casaul, vice presidents; Gregorio Wilson Uyonco, treasurer; Marlin Marilag, auditor; Cristina Gutierrez, secretary general, and Nemesio Sumulong, Milo Satumba, Nelson Pacis, Cecile Benitez, Armel Alcantara, May Dar-Arizabal, Rafael Capaque, Divinagracia Platon-David, John Holgado, Rhoel Vaflor and Menandro Rillon, directors.

In an 18-page complaint, Filomeno said Pineda got Landbank management to approve payment of P29,623,643 plus interest of P1,860,501 to Maxicare.

The employees' lawyer, Homobono A. Adaza, questioned the legality of the interest payment which should have been deposited in the account of LBPEA for the benefit of its members.

The 6,000 LBPEA members nationwide, Adaza said, were never informed of the transaction and were thus denied their right guaranteed in the LBPEA constitution to know about all the financial contracts entered into by LBPEA officers.

Adaza said the act of the respondents arrogating unto themselves the unconferred authority to enter into a contract with Maxicare violated the declared policy of the government, as expressed in the New Procurement Law of 2004, to promote the ideals of good governance, transparency in the procurement process and competitiveness in public bidding.

The respondents, Adaza said, also violated RA 3019 when they caused prejudice and injury to the interests of the employees.

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Tragic reminder

EDITORIAL

PARTY AND POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS WERE SET aside in sympathy, following the tragic accident that cost the life of Dulce Saguisag and left her husband Rene fighting for his life in a hospital. It is no exaggeration to say that the country united in grief over the passing of Dulce, and continues to follow with keen concern the medical condition and recovery of Rene himself.

Truly we are a compassionate people; also a people who are driven to take stock of the problems that such tragedies starkly remind us of. In this case, the behavior of motorists.

A near-total absence of road courtesy has long been the bane of motorists, commuters and pedestrians alike. And the public has constantly bewailed the low quality of driver education. Likewise, the opportunistic—instead of fair and consistent—application of driving laws, invoked for the financial benefit of local governments and individual policemen and traffic aides, has been a cause of constant frustration and the continuing erosion of respect for law enforcers.

As exasperating, if not more, is the fact that the use, or abuse, of police power and the selective application of regulations start from the top and extend all the way to the bottom. All sorts of executive issuances exist limiting the use of sirens and police escorts to only a few officials, but even those officials entitled to such escorts violate the law. How many presidential and Cabinet convoys have we seen that include cars that don't even have license plates? How many officials not entitled to escorts do we encounter weaving in and out of traffic—or causing traffic themselves, or engaging in counter-flows—on a daily basis? No official could possibly be in such a rush all the time, particularly during peak traffic hours when the rest of the citizenry patiently endures the congestion of our roads.

And when it comes to official plates which, besides being a sign of rank, are supposed to have the practical purpose of informing the public of what officials are up to and where they're going, how many vehicles with such plates are used by the wives and children of officials, with neither the public nor school authorities penalizing such abuse?

The list goes on and on, down to the spotty implementation of laws requiring the use of seatbelts and prohibiting cell phone use while driving, as well as laws on the clear marking of license plate numbers on motorcycle helmets and anti-smoke belching ordinances; not to mention archaic laws such as the penal code prohibition on citizens sorting out traffic jams because it constitutes "usurpation of authority."

It is only government that has the power to issue driver's licenses and land transport franchises. But we have rampaging buses on the roads, because of the promiscuous awarding of franchises without imposing regular schedules at bus stops. The result, particularly at night: buses racing against each other as drivers compete for passengers with murderous results. Add to this the problem of drug addiction among bus drivers.

These perils become magnified once darkness falls, with major thoroughfares unlit, traffic lights permanently put on yellow out of laziness, signs that are either obscure or unhelpfully placed, enforcers absent from the streets—again, the catalogue is endless, and the miseries are constant yet unnoticed precisely because they're so commonplace. Until the prominent become affected.

There should be no contradiction between the desire of people to drive for a living, the different kinds of transportation required, the government's licensing power, and the expectation from commuters, drivers and pedestrians alike that some sort of order and reason can exist on our streets, throughout the land, at any time of the day.

But this requires a fundamental adherence to public service. This means officials showing courtesy to the public on the road, and this starts with government ensuring that only those who are qualified get to drive, and that those who drive for a living do so for wages and for periods of time that do not challenge the limits of their physical and mental endurance.

But it seems that the prevalent attitude treats vehicles and drivers only as objects to be extorted from, at licensing or for traffic violations.

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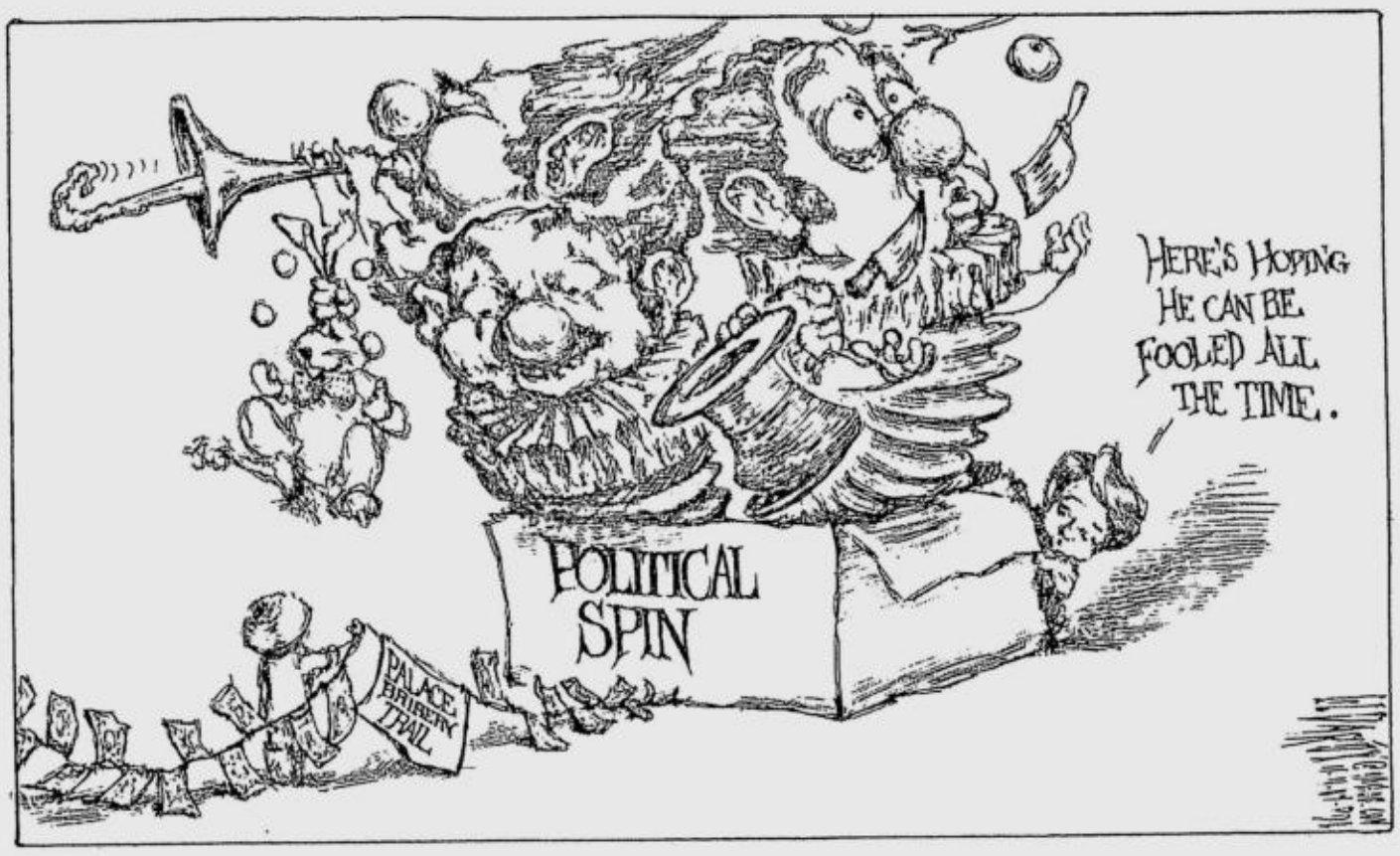

A forgetful and forgiving people

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

DURING THE TRAVAIL OF MARTIAL LAW, the people docilely suffered in silence for fear of persecution and punishment. But when Edsa I erupted, they were quick to denounce the dictator's many abuses and demand retributive justice.

But that fleeting rage is gone; Imelda Marcos remains festively free and her children are still privileged public officials. Madame has been acquitted in several cases, and only a niggardly fraction of the P23.5 billion tax delinquency adjudged against the family in 1999 has been collected. The excesses of the Marcoses—and even of their cronies—have been practically condoned by their forgetful victims.

The Freedom Constitution called for the eradication of "unjust and oppressive structures and all iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime," but it took all of 16 years after Edsa to blast the despot's cement face that marred the natural beauty of the mountains in the North. Still toadyingly misnamed are the Marcos Highway and the Imelda Avenue and other public places that continue to remind us of the conjugal couple's tyranny for 13 desperate years.

The Filipinos are a forgetful people.

Shortly after the 2004 presidential elections, the Garci tapes shocked the nation with a purported conversation between Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and an identifiable culprit for the manipulation of the Mindanao elections to give her a margin of more than a million votes over her formidable rival. But what happened to that shameful exposé was also shameful. Ms Arroyo simply asked the people to forget it and they complied.

Two years ago, the Senate investigated the Venable contract where the Philippines paid in advance a tremendous retainer to an American law firm. National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales refused to divulge the source of the fee, was held in contempt, suddenly felt ill and was rushed to the Heart Center where he soon recovered. He then went back to the safety of Malacañang, where the senators did not pursue him.

Asked last year about the disposition of the P728 million fertilizer funds under his charge, Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante simply flew to the United States, obviously to flee from the Senate investigation. There were strong suspicions that the administration had helped in his escape, but no one bothered to check. The senators simply dropped the case, and the people followed suit with their own forgetfulness.

For an anxious while, the people were excited—and outraged—by conflicting and damning charges and counter-charges among high government officials, and also the President's husband, over the malodorous ZTE contract. GMA later canceled and asked the people to forget it, probably because suspicion reached as high as her as the foremost advocate of the NBN deal. All the secrets of that top-level and prodigious anomaly are now a dim memory when they should have been examined and revealed.

Last Oct. 11 came the incredible report that close to a billion pesos had been distributed in Malacañang itself to favored members of Congress and selected provincial governors. The matter would have been kept secret were it not for Gov. Ed Panlilio who denounced the financial orgy to the consternation of the administration that feigned unconvincing wonderment. But as serious as the scandal was, it is now practically forgotten because of another questionable event—the deliverance of the reinvented Erap.

Former President Joseph Estrada has been pardoned by Ms Arroyo after his conviction by the Sandiganbayan for plundering hundreds of millions of pesos. GMA has chosen to forget his horrendous offense but remembers instead that the poor man had already suffered air-conditioned comfort, lately in his sprawling Tanay estate, as an especially favored detention prisoner.

The people were originally unforgiving and for a while expressed reasoned objections to the undeserved pardon. But now the protests have been silenced by the administration's dismissal of the unrepentant convict's incredible larceny as if it were a minor transgression. GMA's excuse is that forgiving the plunderer is a step toward national reconciliation. She is anxious to reconcile with Erap's idolaters who believe dishonesty should be rewarded, not to say glorified, rather than punished.

If Imelda Marcos is finally convicted of her alleged misdeeds, GMA will perhaps also extend her a pardon to appease her loyalists, of whom there is still a handful. Maybe Ms Arroyo will also invite Jose Ma. Sison to come back and be held guilty of his crimes so he too can be pardoned to reconcile the communists to her. The Abu Sayyaf and other bandits now imprisoned for their capital offenses would also be pardoned, if only to be consistent with her policy of national reconciliation.

Forgetting wrongs results in their undeserved forgiveness, but that is a tender persuasion only in emotional relationships. In civic matters, the rule of law must be impartially enforced, and wrongs rectified and penalized, to serve the imperative ends of justice.

Now and then

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ACCORDING TO A TEXT MESSAGE I RECEIVED, scientists have recently identified a food that, once digested, can have negative effects on people's health. These adverse effects last for decades, including mood swings for women, psychotic episodes among men, and severe depression in both. What is it called? A wedding cake!

* * *

In today's gospel (Lk. 20:27-38), the Sadducees who do not believe in the resurrection ask Jesus about a woman who married seven brothers one after another: Whose wife will she be in the resurrection? Jesus does not directly answer the question, but He points to a bigger picture, and elevates the question to a higher level—that of being with God, a God of the living, in the resurrection. Yes, there are a lot of questions we cannot answer directly and there are a lot of things that are not quantifiable in this life. Surely, there's more to life than what meets the eye. Only with faith can we really "see." Are you operating only by sight or with faith likewise?

* * *

Will we still recognize each other in heaven? Will our earthly relationships now still matter then? I am reminded of a story about a husband who told the wife: "Honey, I was told that in heaven, we will not meet each other, nor will we even recognize each other then. Is that right?"

The wife responded: "Yes, that's true! That's why it is called 'heaven!'"

Kidding aside, our God who is a God of love, will purify all our earthly loves, and will fulfill and complete our hearts with His all-encompassing love. Our human relationships now will still matter then, but all these will be absorbed in His overwhelming and all-encompassing love.

* * *

Our God is not a God of the dead but of the living. Are you relating with a living God? Do you have a personal relationship with God? Is God just a Somebody, or is He a Someone to you? Jesus reminds us today that God is not just some power or some force out there, not just a philosophical or a theological issue to be scrutinized or discussed, but a person; in fact, a Father to each one of us. May we never take God for granted in our lives, or think of Him as a vague somebody in some far-away land. Our God is a Someone who is alive, who dwells in our hearts, in the here and now.

* * *

The death of 12-year-old Mariannet Amper from Davao though should make us all reflect on the presence of God in the here and now. She committed suicide out of hopelessness borne out of extreme poverty. Archbishop Oscar Cruz was correct in his commentary that all of us share the blame for the girl's death, and that all of us should become more aware of our social responsibility toward our less-fortunate brothers and sisters. Perhaps all of us should ask ourselves today if we are making God's presence real in our midst. Are we all just too busy minding and protecting our own business, so much so that we are forgetting God's business in this world?

* * *

Got this text message from my friend Jess Corrales: "In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of. (Confucius)"

It is shameful for one to live in comfort and luxury while people around are dying and going hungry. What is more shameful is for one to pocket the money meant to alleviate the lives of the dying and hungry! How much money meant for the poor has been stolen by our greedy politicians and government leaders? Shame on them! But is shame still a value in this our day and time? Is it still an issue at all for the leaders of our land? One can't help but wonder sometimes if God is still around, or is He sleeping or what? When we see what is happening around us—the poverty, the injustice, the apathy—we may end up in frustration and ask: "Lord, when will all these end? Why do you delay, Lord? Why do the evil ones continue to rule and thrive in this our day and time?" I have often in prayer cried out the above lines. So far I have not heard any answers. Only an assurance—that God hears the cry of the people who call to Him in prayer, and that evil is not forever, and that goodness will triumph in the end. A great hope we hold onto in our hearts, because of eternal life and the resurrection. The "big picture"! We must hold on to the "big picture" through it all.

* * *

Christmas is just around the corner. May Christmas be beautiful for all of us this year, for our country, for the world as well. Hope, that's all we have. We must not lose hope. We must not lose heart in our work of building a better world. Neither should we become cynical about love, and about building a better world, a better Philippines. One with you in your aspirations and dreams. One with you in prayer.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, be present with us now, as we look forward to being with you then. Amen!

Qualified concurrence to Jpepa

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

MY COLUMN LAST SUNDAY BATTING FOR A qualified Senate concurrence to the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) drew several telephone calls, e-mail and texts from government leaders (like Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo), diplomats (like Ambassador to the World Trade Organization Manuel Teehankee, Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon Jr., retired Ambassadors Cesar Bautista and Nelson Lavifia), jurists (like retired Justices Florentino P. Feliciano and Jose C. Vitug), and private citizens (like lawyer Jose S. Songco).

Domestic validity. Traditional legal wisdom concedes foreign policy as the domain of the Executive Branch. The President or her representatives negotiate and conclude international covenants on behalf of the whole government. However, pursuant to the doctrine of checks and balances, the Constitution decrees that "(n)o treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate."

In the past, this concurrence had been an "all or nothing" proposition; the Senate either approved or rejected the treaty in toto, without any modification or condition. In contrast, the United States Senate has long ago included qualifications, reservations, understandings, interpretations, declarations or other statements in its concurrences. In turn, the US Supreme Court—for instance, "United States vs Stuart" in 1983—has upheld the validity of these qualified actions.

I see no plausible reason why the same practice should be disallowed in the Philippines. True, the US Constitution requires the "advice and consent of the Senate" while the Philippine Charter necessitates only concurrence; still, both Constitutions do not prohibit qualified approvals. But because of the word "advice" (a term not found in the text of our Constitution), US senators are now normally included in US treaty negotiating panels, in theory to render advice, but in more practical terms, to assure smooth ratification.

As a further check, our Supreme Court may review the validity of treaties. But as held in "Tañada vs. Angara" (May 2, 1997), a decision I had the honor of writing for the Court, this judicial authority is exercised sparingly. "This Court will not review the **wisdom** of the President and the Senate" in concluding a treaty. "Neither will it rule on the **propriety** of the government's economic policy" embodied in the agreement. In deference to the President, the Senate and the signatory-state(s), it will void a ratified agreement only on the ground of grave abuse of discretion.

Going back to Jpepa, even Justice Feliciano—in his telephone call to me last Nov. 6—affirmed that, if the treaty can no longer be renegotiated in view of its unanimous ratification by the Japanese Diet, the best alternative is a qualified concurrence. His suggested revisions and insertions could be included as "qualifications" in the Resolution of concurrence.

International validity. Since these qualifications are constitutional provisions found mainly in Articles II and XII, or are current, or future legislations, to implement these basic mandates, I believe the Japanese government—or any foreign government for that matter—will easily accept them. Justice Feliciano opines that, during the treaty's negotiation stage, his suggestions could have been included at the sole discretion of the Philippines, in the same manner that at its pleasure, Japan had inserted a long list of reservations.

In any event, I think that constitutions, whether here or elsewhere, are sacred. I believe that a Senate reservation of the primacy over Jpepa of our Constitution and, reciprocally, that of Japan, once accepted by both governments, would not be a problem if the treaty is challenged before international tribunals.

If, after formally receiving the Senate's qualified concurrence, Japan does not object, then it would be deemed to have accepted the reservations. An even better way is an exchange of letters between both governments expressly acknowledging the validity and binding effect of the Senate qualifications. "Back door" diplomatic channels should be able to confirm this procedure before the qualifications are actually approved.

This suggested process is not only legally justified but also diplomatically propitious. The use of "reservations" instead of "revisions," and of letter exchanges instead of outright rejection or renegotiation are more gracious and more palatable to the domestic constituents of the non-reserving state.

East Asian Community. In his e-mail from Geneva, Ambassador Teehankee, the bar top-notcher son of Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, requested me to inform readers that, contrary to some impressions, Neda Deputy Director General Marge Songco was a "tough" Jpepa negotiator who "while not perfect... did quite a bit of work trying to dot the i's and cross the t's in relation to the reservations on constitutionally protected industries."

He added that, apart from Japan and the Asean countries, the two other economic super powers in our region (China and Korea) are included in the East Asian Community that, as I wrote earlier, these Economic Partnership Agreements should eventually give birth to. In this larger sense, the Jpepa acquires urgency and value to our economic development, in the same way that the European Union had become vital to the well being of many states, especially the former Soviet Republics, in Europe.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Reporting on suicide

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BY HANGING HERSELF IN HER FAMILY'S SHANTY in Davao City last Nov. 2, Mariannet Amper, 12, has just been named a "saint of poverty" by no less than this newspaper.

Mariannet, as a news report detailed, committed suicide out of "quiet desperation over her school absences and her inability to catch up with school work," brought on in part by her family's poverty. The claim or conjecture is bolstered by the young girl's diary, where she wrote down her feelings of increasing frustration and despair about her and her parents' ever finding a way out of their dire situation. Mentioned as further proof of her desperation is an apparently unsent letter to a TV show premised on granting poor viewers their wishes, which Mariannet apparently believed offered some form of relief, if not salvation.

Her story is certainly grist for melodrama, and I won't be surprised if it is someday turned into prime time soap material. It is also rich material from which to mine all sorts of political insights—from the symbolic power of her act, to the shame she brings to all those who had the power to help her but did not, to the larger implications of her life, standing for the millions of Filipinos living on the knife-edge of daily despair.

But it is also easy to over-read Mariannet's symbolism, and especially to misread her motivations. She may have indeed been burdened by her poverty. But we do not know if this was indeed her reason for committing suicide. For all we know, Mariannet may have been suffering from depression, which is different from being merely sad or frustrated, and which afflicts both the economically disadvantaged and the wealthy.

* * *

"SUICIDE is a complex phenomenon that has attracted the attention of philosophers, theologians, physicians, sociologists and artists over the centuries," states a media guide on the coverage of suicide. "As a serious public health problem it demands our attention, but its prevention and control, unfortunately, are no easy task. State-of-the-art research indicates that the prevention of suicide, while feasible, involves a whole series of activities, ranging from the provision of the best possible condition for bringing up our children and youth, through the effective treatment of mental disorders, to the environmental control of risk factors. Appropriate dissemination of information and awareness-raising are essential elements in the success of suicide prevention programmes."

This is where the media coverage of Mariannet's suicide, as well as those of celebrities or even of those bungled attempts by a string of unhinged or spaced-out individuals climbing billboards and threatening to jump from them, comes into focus.

"Suicide is often newsworthy and the media have the right to report it," say the writers of "Preventing Suicide: A Resource for Media Professionals," prepared by the Suicide Prevention Initiative of the World Health Organization. But studies have shown that "some forms of nonfictional newspaper and television coverage of suicide are associated with a statistically significant excess of suicide," with the impact appearing to be strongest among young people.

* * *

THE GUIDE makes clear that "the majority of suicides are not reported in the media." But the majority of suicides "most likely to attract the attention of the media are those that depart from usual patterns. In fact, it is striking that cases presented in the media are almost invariably atypical and uncommon, and to represent them as typical further perpetuates misinformation about suicide."

The writers also express concern that "publicity about suicide might make the idea of suicide seem 'normal.' Repeated and continual coverage of suicide tends to induce and promote suicidal preoccupations, particularly among adolescents and young adults."

I should also point out that premature "canonization" of suicide victims may create the impression that taking one's life is the "heroic" response to life's difficulties, to heartache, or to boredom. People who take their own lives, especially young people, are certainly not to "blame" for their own deaths. But it is also unfair to go on an expedition of "blaming," whether it be the victim's family, loved ones, colleagues or even the national leadership.

* * *

AMONG THE guidelines suggested for the media:

- **Sensational coverage of suicides should be assiduously avoided, particularly when a celebrity is involved .... Any mental health problems the celebrity may have had should also be acknowledged. And, "front-page headlines are never the ideal location for suicide reports."**
- **Detailed descriptions of the method used and how the method was procured should be avoided. Research has shown that media coverage of suicide has a greater impact on the method of suicide adopted than the frequency of suicides. Certain locations are traditionally associated with suicide and added publicity increases the risk that more people will use them.**
- **Suicide should not be reported as unexplainable or in a simplistic way. Suicide is never the result of a single factor or event. It is usually caused by a complex interaction of many factors such as mental and physical illness, substance abuse, family disturbances, interpersonal conflicts and life stressors. Acknowledging that a variety of factors contributes to suicide would be helpful.**

The guide also suggests that suicide should not be depicted "as a method of coping with personal problems such as bankruptcy, failure to pass an examination, or sexual abuse." On the other hand, taking into account the impact of suicide on families and other survivors, as well as describing the physical consequences of non-fatal suicide attempts, may help stem the occurrence of "copycat" suicides.

Sadat's journey, 30 years after

WORLD VIEW

Shlomo Ben-Ami

TOLEDO—IF "ONE MAN OF COURAGE MAKES a majority," as Andrew Jackson said, then 30 years ago, in November 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was such a man. His peace overture to Israel stunned the Middle East. He had, as he put it, gone "to the end of the earth" (the Knesset in Jerusalem), and in doing so transformed the region's politics beyond recognition.

From that moment, the question for the Arabs was no longer how to destroy Israel, but how to reach an accommodation with it. In his dramatic leap into the future, Sadat taught Arab leaders the realities of a changing world.

For Sadat's peace overture was born out of a sober strategic analysis of the regional balance of power. It was clear to him that Israel was a nuclear power that, in October 1973, had once again proven itself to be unbeatable in a conventional war—a war Sadat himself had never expected to win when he launched it.

Understanding Clausewitz's dictum that war is a continuation of politics by other means, Sadat had sent the Egyptian Army across the Suez Canal in order to unleash a peace process. He was defeated militarily, but his decision to go to Jerusalem meant that he would succeed politically.

During all of their abortive attempts to destroy Israel, the Arabs had relied on the military backing of the Soviet Union. But a strategy of peace with Israel, Sadat knew, required an alliance with the United States. This alliance was so vital an objective for Sadat that one may rightly wonder what came first in his strategy.

Perhaps Sadat might have opted to secure the American alliance without making peace with Israel if he had been able to do so. But he could not, and he knew it. Indeed, in 1974, when General Gamasy, the architect of the 1973 war, questioned Sadat's flexibility in the disengagement talks with Israel, Egypt's president calmed him down by saying, "Don't forget, General, we are talking here about peace with the Americans!"

Another shift implicit in Sadat's strategy was to keep Egypt at a distance from pan-Arabism. Weary of inter-Arab politics, and tired of the high price Egypt had paid for the Palestinian cause, Sadat wanted to move away from Nasser's pan-Arab ambitions and an excessive focus on the question of Palestine toward an emphasis on Egypt's role as a power lying at the strategic crossroads between Asia and Africa.

Sadat would, of course, continue to champion the Palestinian cause as the heart of an Arab consensus and sometimes as a fig leaf for his own Egypt-focused foreign policy. But, for all practical purposes, Sadat had embarked on a path leading to a separate peace with Israel.

One lesson of Sadat's initiative is that in protracted conflicts where deep emotions and historical hatreds are involved, when almost every conceivable diplomatic formula has been tried and failed, the shock of a visionary, generous and imaginative step can open new paths. The major problem in the Arab-Isreli conflict, as in many other intricate disputes, has always been the incapacity or unwillingness of leaders to conduct a peace policy that is not supported by their societies' prevailing, and frequently paralyzing, consensus.

Leaders, more often than not, are hostage to the socio-political environment that produces them, rather than its shapers. Sadat gained a privileged place in history and achieved immortality the moment he fled from the comfortable prison of inertia, and from the pantomime solidarity and hollow rhetorical cohesion of Arab summits.

The test of statesmanship did not end there. Sadat's spectacular leap into the future needed to be met by Israel's prime minister, Menachem Begin, at almost every juncture down a tortuous road to peace. Arguably, only a political "hawk" like Begin, a man with a keen sense of the dramatic and a political romantic with a beady eye to the judgment of history, could have responded in such a way to Sadat's initiative.

That Begin was able to rise to the occasion had much to do with the psychological impact of Sadat's astonishing initiative. Through his visit to Jerusalem, Sadat made more ordinary the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Sadat's initiative transformed the conflict from a fight about Israel's right to exist into a negotiation of interests between legitimate sovereign states.

Here, indeed, is the central point: the need to move away from mythological, mutually exclusive rights of existence, conflicting historical narratives, and religious claims of ownership. Sadly, this is where the Palestinian-Israeli tragedy remains stuck to this very day, thus making the conflict practically insoluble. Through his visit to Jerusalem, Sadat shook away Israel's siege mentality and gave psychological living space to an otherwise claustrophobic nation in the midst of a hostile Arab world.

Peace is never a zero-sum game. In its peace with Israel, Egypt reached its strategic objective of an alliance with the United States. But Israel was wrong to believe that Egypt could be a gateway into the Arab world. The gate to Israeli-Arab reconciliation remains where it has always been—in the hands of the Palestinians.

Project Syndicate

Shlomo Ben-Ami, a former Israeli foreign minister who now serves as the vice president of the Toledo International Centre for Peace, is author of "Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy."

Truth in art

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

THE ISSUE OF THE PRESS FREEDOM MURAL THAT WAS bastardized by the National Press Club is one that has been zipping down the highways of cyberspace, flooding e-mail inboxes, swamping newspaper columns and television reports with outbursts of indignation. The basic facts are these: that the NPC commissioned the Neo-Angono Artists Collective (NAAC) to produce a mural depicting the state of Philippine Press Freedom, that the NPC later decided that it did not depict their "apolitical" perspective of what press freedom is; that on the artists' refusal to change the mural, the NPC took it upon itself to "correct" the painting using a different artist; and that, on the day Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo unveiled the mural, astounding changes had taken place, least of all the alibata tattoo on Andres Bonifacio's arm morphing into a heart pierced with an arrow.

On the surface, the story appears to be a cut-and-dried issue of censorship. But what is astounding with this story is not only the fact that the NPC officers seem to believe they can get away with publicly stating that the artists are simply paid hacks—according to Conrado Generoso of the NPC—so much so that they feel that they are within their rights to paint over someone else's work; it is that the NPC commissioned the NAAC in the first place.

A commissioned work requires trust on both sides, after all, the artist is not hired because he is simply a hack, but because his sensibilities match those of the person commissioning the work. That "meeting of the minds," as visual artist Julie Po calls it, is necessary to successfully produce a work of art. This is the same for singers, dancers, writers, architects, and nearly all artists who live on their creativity—the movie star will compromise with the director, the writer will submit to the sensitivity of the director, the newlywed couple will follow the color scheme of the interior decorator. Both sides will attempt, at best, to bridge the gap between creator and administrator, and that is possible only if that gap is not a yawning chasm.

It is why the NPC's choice of the Neo-Angono artists smacks of the same ridiculousness as asking Conrado de Quiros to write Ms Arroyo's biography. The NAAC is a group rooted in social context and the political clime, and even a cursory look at their website establishes their commitment to "planting new seeds of artistic perception," that "strives to render modernist visual and artistic language responsive to the times" whose engagement with the arts is "wedded in the local community and people." Certainly this is not a group willing to work simply as hired hands to create a portrait of an "apolitical" press freedom. After all, press freedom is not a neutral notion; it is a liberal ideology held by some, rejected by others, and certainly sacrificed for by others. It is a reason why the NPC officers cannot wash their hands of responsibility here, irrelevant of the censorship, and claim to be shocked when their anemic version of freedom failed to appear on their mural.

At the same time, it is also as astounding for an organization that claims activist roots to work for the NPC, an organization that the NAAC artists themselves initially claimed to have taken in good faith. On a recent interview, however, NAAC president Wire Tuazon admitted having researched the NPC and the controversy that shrouds the formerly august institution. Yet in spite of their current claim to being solidly against the NPC's perspective on press freedom, the group agreed to work with the NPC knowing their reputation because there were debts to be paid, art festivals to be hosted, and other such expenses necessary to the NAAC's existence.

The controversy, however, wouldn't have been inevitable with proper monitoring. Joel Sy Egco, who acted as middleman between the groups, and whose accusations of ingratitude and overpricing have been answered by a more damning accusation of taking an alleged P200,000 commission, was given the responsibility of monitoring the efforts of the artists.

After discussions on what the mural would be about between the NPC board and the artists, the NPC made the request that no faces of any living journalists be put in the mural "because that would be political"—a request the artists claim they never agreed on—they trooped off to Angono, laid out their mural, and spent two and a half months sweating over an eight-foot high mural.

What is conceded is this: that Egco did go to monitor; that during that time, the mural, half-done, had labels taped beneath faces of characters, and that Egco did not complain. In fact, Tuazon remembers Egco telling them to go ahead with what they wanted. In a telephone interview, Egco initially denied that the faces or labels were there, then changed his statement to that he didn't notice, and that he couldn't be expected to know who the characters were anyway even when labeled. Eugenia Apostol for example, founder of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, a giant in the history of the Philippine Press, was someone he was unfamiliar with, and besides, he had no idea if she was alive—a rather interesting commentary from a member of the NPC.

Egco stopped monitoring after two visits, and instead asked for photo updates from the artists. Asked why he didn't spot the controversial details, he claimed the details were too small to notice. Asked why he didn't monitor the artists personally, he said he was too busy. It is no surprise then that the NPC was surprised by the mural—nobody is admitting it was because of GMA's planned unveiling—and no surprise either that the NAAC, whose payments had been delayed repeatedly, were standing their ground.

Yet the NPC accepted the delivery, finally paid the artists in full after requesting a few on-the-spot alterations—like changing the brand of R&E taxi to J&J for Joel and director Jerry Yap—and the artists went home to Angono with a signed receiving order.

The rest is already public knowledge. The NPC ordered the editing of the mural because the Angono artists, who say they were exhausted after days of no sleep, did not immediately pack up their paintboxes to go haring off to the NPC building. The repainting was done—justified for rather strange reasons. The alibata on Bonifacio's arm, for example, was changed because, according to the NPC, "we couldn't understand what it meant."

That the NPC's perspective on press freedom is a ridiculous one is something that is not surprising given the history of the club. Their censorship must be condemned, as all censorship of art should be condemned. Perhaps what must be understood is this, that truth, no matter under how many layers it is hidden, will always find its way out, and that liars are all the blacker when they claim to be vanguards of truth.

* * *

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Distance education

NOWADAYS, A STUDENT CAN EARN A COLLEGE OR MASTER'S degree or a doctorate even if he or she does not attend classes. One can also earn a degree in the Philippines while the student is working abroad. This has been made possible by distance education, which has been facilitated by the availability of Internet services in many parts of the country.

Distance education offers several advantages. Unlike traditional education in which one goes to school regularly to meet teachers and classmates, a student availing himself or herself of distance learning can "attend" classes while at home or in the workplace with the use of e-mail, chat and video conference. Assignments and announcements are posted online.

Like the mainstream learning experience, distance education follows a curriculum. Deadlines are set but studying can be done at one's pace. At the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) face-to-face sessions between the teacher and student are done four to five times per semester.

At least 19 schools offer distance learning in the country. At the moment, UPOU offers the biggest number of courses among the schools.

A total of 1,738 students are enrolled at the UPOU this second semester, 129 of whom are abroad, according to Eden Salon of the UP Learning Center Administration.

Last semester, there were more than 2,000 students enrolled at the Open University.

A study by the UPOU has found that there is little difference in the quality of learning received by distance education students and regular students.

By Schatzi Quodala

SHARON CUNETA was reported to have not only passed in April 2006 but also placed second in the admission exam of the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), which provides learning through distance education.

A year later, singer Sarah Geronimo followed in the footsteps of the singer actress and passed the exam.

Cuneta and Geronimo are among the students availing themselves of distance education.

Distance education is unlike the usual classroom setup where students and teachers are supposed to be present regularly for education to take place.

In distance education, learning normally occurs in a different place from teaching, with the use of different forms of medium. With this system, it is easier for individuals, who do not have the opportunity for a traditional learning experience, to still pursue their studies.

Students are left to learn in the comfort of their homes or workplace.

Distance education still follows a certain curriculum. While students are usually left to study at their own pace, learning materials have deadlines.

In the Philippines, apart from the UPOU, 18 other universities and colleges offer undergraduate and graduate programs using distance education through open universities. (*See table*)

All the 19 schools make use of the Internet, specifically e-mail, chat (voice or via web cam) and/or video conferencing, to provide distance education.

The schools also require regular face-to-face interaction between teachers and students at their respective learning centers.

Others like the University of Santo Tomas and the ABS-CBN use distance education to help the less privileged get a high school diploma.

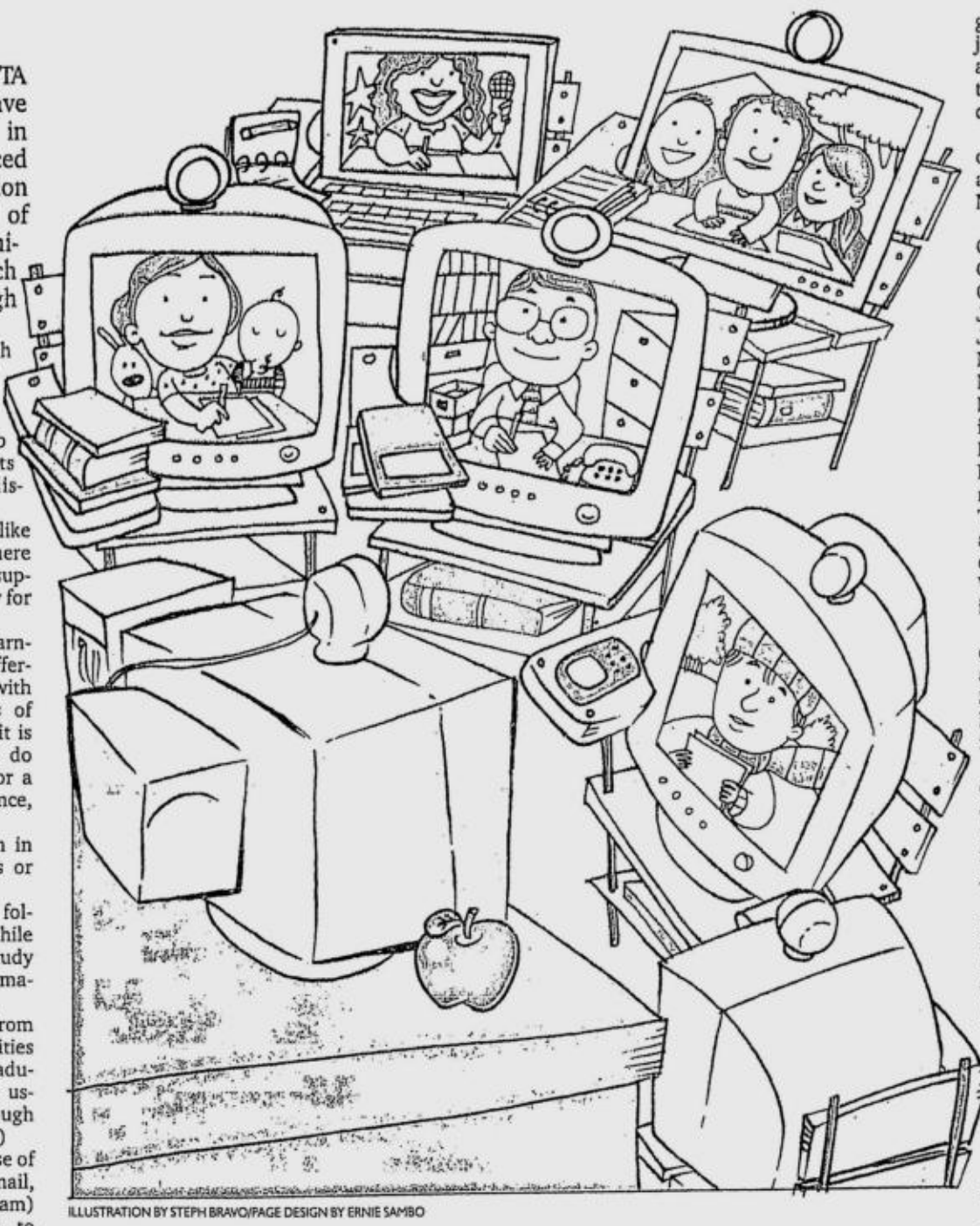

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO/PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

UP Open University

Established on Feb. 23, 1995, students at UPOU follow a semestral schedule. Teacher-student interaction usually takes place with the help of snail mail, telephone, electronic communication and occasional face-to-face interaction.

Face-to-face sessions are done at about four to five times per semester under the supervision of a tutor.

To ensure that the exams are done by the students themselves, examinations are supervised, whether face-to-face or online. Examinations and assignments are the bases for the students' grades.

Face-to-face examinations are done at the UPOU learning centers that may be located on UP campuses in Diliman, Los Baños, Manila, Baguio, Cebu College, Tacloban College, the Visayas and Mindanao or in other cooperating institutions like Universidad de Sta. Isabel, Cagayan State University and the Department of Education-Cagayan de Oro. The learning centers are also used for study sessions.

The programs offered are Diploma in Science Teaching, Diploma in Mathematics Teaching, Diploma in Research and Development Management, Diploma in Computer Science, Diploma/Master in Environment and Natural Resources Management, Diploma in Language Studies for Teachers, Diploma/Master in Social Studies Education, Diploma/Master of Social Work, Master in Hospital Administration, Master in Public Health, Master of Arts in Nursing, Master in Public Management., Master of Professional Studies in Development Communication, Ph.D in Education, and Associate in Arts.

Tuition for formal or diploma courses range from P300/unit to P600/unit while nonformal or certificate programs cost P3,000/course.

PUP

Although the Polytechnic University of the Philippines Open University was officially launched in 1990, its distance education project started in the 1970s.

The project was intended to be an extension of the PUP on its provincial campuses where it offered technical-vocational courses to mostly out-of-school youth and the poor.

Starting with 360 beneficiaries, the PUP Open University's student population has grown to almost 2,000.

Since 1970, PUP has been able to open other learning centers in Manila, Quezon City, Taguig, Bulacan, Batangas, Quezon, Nueva Ecija and Camarines Sur.

PWU

Then Philippine Women's University president, Dr. Jose Conrado Benitez, in his inaugural address on Feb. 19, 1993, formally announced the university's policy on distance education. "It is the classroom that will have to go to the students and not the students to the classrooms. It will enter the homes through distance education; it will take place in the offices and workplaces through various career development and continuing education programs; it will situate itself in our communities through accredited experiential learning activities designed for community immersion," he said.

In March 1994, the PWU EDTV or educational television program was launched. It was the first and only cable television channel exclusively dedicated for educational programming. On July 15, 1996, the PWU College of Distance Education was formally created.

The PWU College of Distance Education says its learning centers are on its campus in Manila, and in participating schools in Makati, Las Piñas, Bataan, Bulacan, Imus in Cavite, Camarines Norte, Kalinga, Lipa in Batangas, Pampanga, Bacolod and Hong Kong.

Konrad Adenauer Center

The Ateneo de Manila University's (AdMU) distance education program is focused on just one course: Journalism.

The Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism, together with the university's Department of Education, "designed [the program] primarily for working journalists who seek excellence and advancement in their craft through a comprehensive academic graduate-level training."

The program offers three core courses: Advanced Reporting and Writing, Media Ethics and Media Law.

Electives consist of: Advanced Computer-assisted Reporting, Creative Writing, Editorial and Opinion Writing, Investigative Journalism, Issues in Broadcast Journalism, Leadership in the Newsroom, Media Economics, Media and Politics, Newsroom Management, Online Journalism, Photojournalism, Reporting Business, Reporting Conflict and Peace, Reporting about the Environment, Reporting Information Technology, Reporting Social and Development Issues, Science Reporting, Visual Literacy, Writing for Broadcast and Writing about Culture.

The program also lets students choose any three graduate-level courses in Humanities, Social Sciences, Management, Natural Sciences and Engineering, called cognate courses.

The core courses are taught online using on-campus methods while elective courses are taken purely online. The cognate courses are held onsite on AdMU's Loyola campus.

Students are required on campus for only two brief periods during the two-year program: two weeks in August and the six-week summer semester from April to May.

UST

The University of Santo Tomas organized a distance education program to help less privileged individuals who do not have the opportunity or the money to study.

UST's project began in 1999. Classes were conducted through a two-way radio with a teacher supervising five sitios in Bamban, populated mostly by Aetas who had never gone to school. Through distance education, the Aetas learn basic literacy and functional skills—reading, writing and simple arithmetic.

Each radio set in every sitio runs on car batteries. The radio sets, including the one in the radio room of the university, are licensed by the National Telecommunications Commission.

ABS-CBN

Its Distance Learning Center (DLC), established in 1998, was intended to be a school for young actors and actresses who have no time for regular schooling.

Originally, DLC had only nine students, all actors. The DLC now accepts students, regardless of age or stature. It also gives much consideration to students with special needs like those who have to undergo regular medication.

The DLC is divided into two programs: semi-regular and home school.

The former requires students to attend classes four times a week (Tuesday to Friday between 9:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.) at the Talent Center Building in the ABS-CBN compound.

The latter gives students the leeway to study at their own pace, in the comfort of their homes. Still, a student under the home school program is required to come to the learning center to take their periodic trimestral exams, to submit projects, and to participate in special school activities.

(Schatzi Quodala is on the staff of Inquirer Research.)

Open U offers convenience

MARIA PAULINE ARQUELADA, an Associate in Arts student, enrolled in the UP Open University because it was "convenient."

With the use of e-mail, chat and video conferencing, she is able to "attend" her classes. Her cell phone also comes in handy.

"Everything is posted online and I can access assignments and announcements anytime at my convenience. I can take care of my kids, manage a business and continue my studies all at the same time," Arquelada said.

Distance education can sometimes be a "hassle," according to Mark Rozell Sabille, also an Associate in Arts student at the UPOU.

"Sometimes, homework deadlines are conflicting with my work schedule," Sabille said.

But the setup is suitable for working students like him because he does not have to be physically present in a classroom, he said.

Distance education is spreading globally, enabling overseas Filipino workers (OFW) to continue their studies.

In fact, an OFW, Susan Eleanor Claro, topped this year's graduating class of UPOU. Claro works for a United Kingdom-based nongovernment organization in Laos.

Schools offering distance learning

Ilocos region

- **Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University**
  San Fernando City, La Union
  (072) 888-3191; (072) 242-3608
- **Pangasinan State University**
  Lingayen, Pangasinan
  (075) 542-6466; 542-8694
- **University of Northern Philippines**
  Vigan
  (077) 722-2812; (072) 722-2528

Cagayan Valley

- **St. Paul University**
  Tuguegarao
  (078) 846-9186

Central Luzon

- **Central Luzon State University**
  Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
  (044) 456-0656; (044) 456-5242

Metro Manila

- **The Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism**
  2nd Floor, Department of Communication Building
  Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City
  426-6001 loc. 5215 and 926-3253
- **Asian Institute**
  Legaspi Village, Makati
  813-0565
- **CAP College**
  Legaspi Street, Makati
  818-0560
- **Philippine Women's University**
  Taft Avenue, Manila
  526-6935
- **Polytechnic University of the Philippines**
  Sta. Mesa, Manila
  716-1143

Southern Tagalog

- **Southeast Asia Interdisciplinary Development Institute**
  Taktak Drive, Antipolo City
- **University of the Philippines**
  Los Baños, Laguna (main campus)
  (049) 536-3673

Western Visayas

- **Iloilo State College of Fisheries**
  Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo
  (033) 361-2413
- **John B. Lacson School**
  Molo, Iloilo
  (033) 336-5449; (033) 337-7538
- **Polytechnic State College of Antique**
  Sibalom, Antique

Eastern Visayas

- **Leyte State University**
  Baybay, Leyte
  (053) 335-2601; 335-2676

Northern Mindanao

- **Mindanao Polytechnic State College**
  Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro

Cordillera Administrative Region

- **Benguet State University**
  La Trinidad, Benguet
- **Mountain Province State Polytechnic College**
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Quarry tax exceeds 3-yr Lapid take

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE ADMINISTRATION of Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio has collected in 95 days what the administrations of Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and his son, Mark, had collected in their stints as governors in three-and-half years from quarry fees and taxes.

The latest report from the provincial treasurer's office showed that quarry collections from June 29 to Nov. 8 reached P88.605 million.

In contrast, the Lapid administrations generated P86.45 million from January 2004 to June 28, 2007, previous reports from the same office showed.

All three administrations imposed the same fee and tax: P150 in administrative fee and P150 in sand tax.

While the Panlilio administration drew an average of P1 million daily, quarry collections under the Lapids grossed P10.530 million in 2004, P38.505 million in 2005, P29.115 million in 2006, and P8.3 million in January to June 28, 2007.

The shares of sand-rich areas—seven towns and 30 villages—from the P150-sand tax had also grown by 21 times.

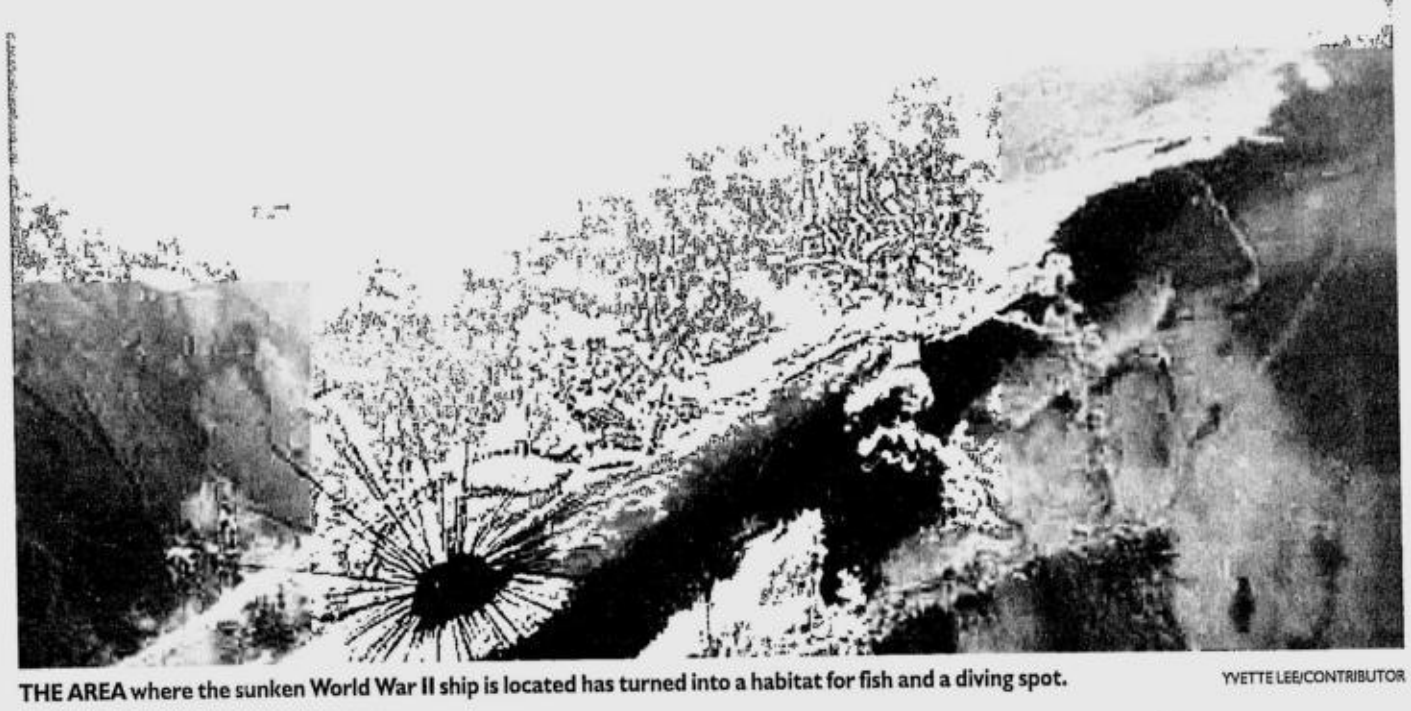
From getting a total of P747,810 in January to June 2007, the shares of these local governments increased to P22.391 million from July 1 to Oct. 15.

The biggest recipient is Porac, the hometown of the Lapids, getting P4.893 million from a low of P13,230. Barangays Manibaug-Pasig and Mancatian are the biggest beneficiaries, taking P3.6 million and P2.3 million, respectively, from P7,020 each as of June 2007.

The P150-sand tax per truckload is shared by the province, town and barangays from where the sand is extracted at 30-30-40 percent basis.

The distribution of shares had been delayed by the refusal of the Philippine National Bank here to recognize the signature of provincial administrator Vivian Dabu in checks following the provincial board's non-confirmation of her appointment.

Panlilio had transferred the bulk of the funds in the PNB account to the capitol's existing account at the Land Bank of the Philippines to comply with a Department of Finance's policy on the use of government depository banks for public transactions. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



THE AREA where the sunken World War II ship is located has turned into a habitat for fish and a diving spot. YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

Village losing sunken ship to profiteers

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—RESIDENTS OF THE fishing village of San Pedro in MacArthur, Leyte are losing the sunken warship near their village that has served as an artificial reef for over 60 years.

With the vessel now being removed in a salvage operation authorized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, fishers in the village said their catch has drastically dropped.

The sunken World War II vintage battleship, located just about a kilometer from the shore, has been the reason San Pedro fishers had been enjoying an abundant fish catch for years, as the ship had served as habitat of such fish species as *tingag*, *mamsa* and *sandatan*, which command a good price in the market.

Livelihood

"As a livelihood, fishing has provided us with food and sent our children to school," said Graciano "Garcing" Echavez, 73, the president of the local fishermen's association, the San Pedro Samahang Mangingisda.

But when the salvage operation started in 2004, Echavez said they noted a big decrease in their fish catch because the fishes were being driven away by salvaging activities, and that they now have to go far to catch fish.

Mano Garcing, as old man Echavez is called in their village, said he had led in opposing the salvage operation about three years ago for this would adversely affect their livelihood and that they would soon be losing their rich fishing ground forever.

This time, however, when operations resumed around September this year, he did not make any move to oppose the salvage operation.

Coerced

"I was prevented by a (municipal) councilor from interfering in the salvage operation, telling me that I have no right to do so for it is only the councilors who have the right to look into this matter," Mano Garcing explained.

Angel Echavez, 31, a relative of Mano Garcing and a *kagawad* (councilman) of Barangay San Pedro, said many residents are opposed to the resumption of the salvaging of the sunken ship but they were made to believe that they could not do anything.

The younger Echavez said they were told that the salvage operation is being undertaken by the Lilia Dapuran Marketing, reportedly on the basis of a permit issued by former Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

"I even suggested to our barangay captain to ask for copies of these documents and post these at the dancing hall so those opposed to the operation would know that the (salvor's) papers are in place," the councilman said.

No documents

But this did not materialize. Until now they haven't seen a copy of the documents that make legal the salvage operation in their area, Echavez said.

All they know, he added, is that they would get a 15-percent share from the value of the salvaged metals sold.

Groups seek juvenile law review amid rising crime

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

> 'Will we have to wait until someone dies because a juvenile criminal has crossed the line?...'

BAGUIO CITY—Criminal syndicates have been emboldened to use children for their nefarious activities because they believe a newly enacted law frees teenagers aged below 18 years from any liability, according to city officials.

The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 (Republic Act No. 9344) "does not work in the city," acting Mayor Daniel Fariñas said, following an increase in street violence attributed to a growing number of teenage gangs.

The city council has agreed to ask Congress to repeal the law, citing statistical evidence supplied by law enforcers and the courts.

But Baguio-based organizations that advocate child rights cautioned the local officials, saying that it could correct errors in the law by enacting ordinances that design juvenile justice systems suited for the community.

RA 9344 penalizes and confines youths who commit serious offenses, although it requires them to be tried under a specialized juvenile justice system rather than the conventional legal system.

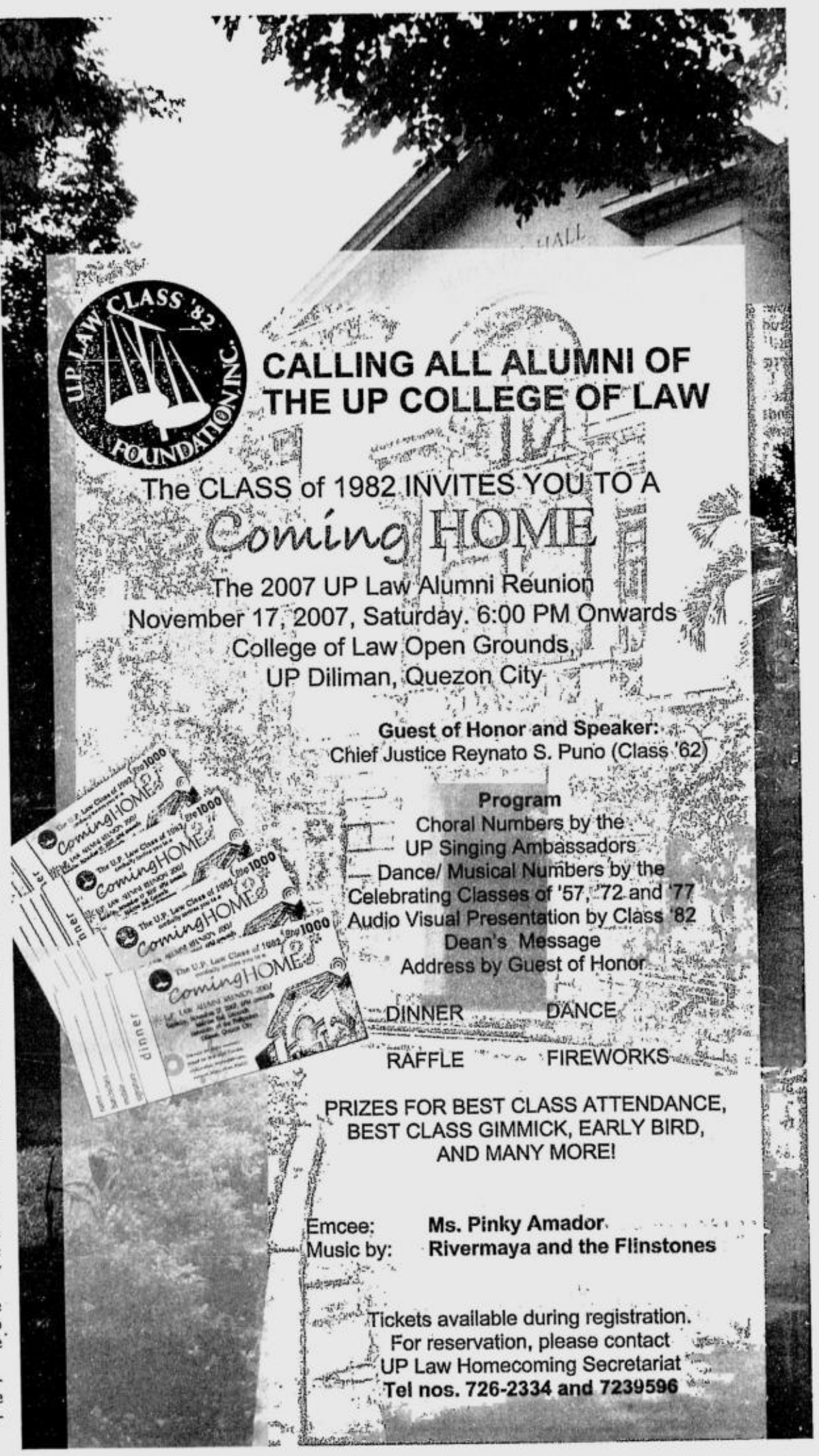
The law fulfills the country's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, by segregating youths jailed for high crimes from adult offenders.

Youths convicted of a crime or suspected to have committed petty offenses may not be tried by regular courts under the law. As a result, most of the young offenders detained by local and national prisons have to be released, Fariñas said.

"Street gangs are slowly becoming violent. Will we have to wait until someone dies because a juvenile criminal has crossed the line? A 17-year-old and an 18-year-old are mature enough to make decisions so they must suffer the consequences," he said.

Many gangs recruit high school or grade school children who belong to middle to low-income families, according to a profile supplied by the city's social welfare office.

Some of the recruits interviewed by social workers said they were attracted to the gang's motifs and lifestyle, which are patterned after American hip-hop rappers.



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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Tribes fear extinction under Ipra

By Germelina Lacorte
Davao City

HIMPAD MANGUMALAS COULD NOT HELP but compare what was happening to an indigenous plant that his Higaonon tribe calls "*bahi*" to his own people's predicament.

"*Bahi*," a palm species that once grew in abundance in the forests of Agusan del Norte, is a key element in the healing rituals of the tribe. Recently, however, healers had to look for substitutes for this plant because they could no longer gather it in the fast disappearing forests.

"The entry of logging had so altered our lands that some of our plant species are already disappearing," said Mangumalas, 33.

"We're now in grave danger of disappearing from the face of the earth," he said. "How fast they're taking away our lands from us is also how fast we are disappearing as a people."

Mangumalas chairs the Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan sa Pilipinas. He echoes the sentiments of 60 indigenous peoples' leaders in Mindanao, who gathered in Davao City recently to share their experiences in the last 10 years of the Indigenous People's Rights Act (Ipra).

The law, signed on Oct. 29, 1997, was supposed to restore their rights to their ancestral land. It was then hailed as a landmark legislation that seeks to "recognize, promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples," Mangumalas recalled.

Ipra incorporated the indigenous peoples' rights to ancestral domain, self-governance, social justice and cultural integrity, and their human rights.

But according to the Mindanao datus, their experiences in the last 10 years proved otherwise. Instead of helping protect their ancestral lands, Ipra has only paved the way for the entry of foreign companies into their lands, Mangumalas said.

Land certificates

During the gathering, the tribal chieftains called for the withdrawal of their existing certificate of ancestral domain titles (CADTs) and the scrapping of Ipra. They included leaders of the B'laan, Subanen, Manobo, T'boli, Mandaya, Mansaa, Tiruray, Tagakaolo, Bagobo, Bukidnon, Banwaon, Dibabawon, Talaandig, Manguagan and Ubo.

"It dismayed both those who rejected it first hand and those who initially welcomed it and had applied for CADTs," Mangumalas said.

NCIP officials, however, explained that it is more advantageous for the tribe to apply for a CADT or they lose their claim over it once it is declared "alienable and disposable" by the government.

Lawyer Geroncio Aguio, NCIP chief administration officer, said that since the ancestral domain title is awarded to the entire tribe and not to a person, members of the tribe would still benefit from it in the future, once these violent feuds come to pass.

He also denied that Ipra has been a total failure in the last 10 years because despite the lack of funds, the NCIP has been able to distribute more than 1 million hectares of ancestral land over the last 10 years. "Compared to other government land distribution programs, that is already a very big achievement," he said.

The datus presented at least five cases where Ipra had not prevented, but instead legitimized, the grabbing of ancestral land. Among these was the expansion of the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma) of Alcantara and Sons into the territories of the Ata Manobo tribe in Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

A Sagip member narrated how the leader of the Ata Manobo's Salugpungan Ta Tanu Igkanugon was tricked into signing the CADT to clear the entry of a hydroelectric project to the area.

In 1993, the Manobo and Mamanwa tribes in Surigao applied for certificate for ancestral domain claim (CADC) for about 14,700 ha of land that covered the Lanoza, Tandag, Tago, San Miguel and Carmen towns.

"Their application was approved in 1996, but the certificate did not prevent the logging companies from coming in," said Ricardo Salazar, 62, also known as Datu Depensa. "It was practically useless."

"We thought, at first, that they're going to recognize our traditional leaders but when they started calling meetings to tell us what to do, we withdrew because it was very obvious they don't honor us," Salazar said.

He said the CADC had only legitimized the sellout of the land.

According to Salazar, the government picked someone from among the members of the tribe and declared him chieftain, creating confusion and division among the ranks.

In the case of the Ata-Manobo tribes in Davao del Norte, government troops organized those known to favor the Ifma into a paramilitary group called Alamaras, which eventually resulted in armed violence in the area.

Dulphing Ogan, secretary general of the indigenous peoples' group Kalumaran, said two kinds of leaders now ruled indigenous communities—those bestowed the traditional leadership role and those anointed by the government.

Sagittarius case

Of the 81,400 ha of land that the B'laan tribe in Malungon had applied for as ancestral domain, only 31,000 ha were approved by the NCIP. "Only key persons who favored the entry of companies in the area have enjoyed scholarship and other privileges from Sagittarius Mines," Ogan said.

But the recent refusal of Sagittarius Mines-Xstrata to place more than 200 workers on regular employment only showed the "*lumad*" that they could not really expect much from the companies.

The company holds a financial and technical assistance agreement for gold and copper operations in Tampakan, South Cotabato, said to be the largest undeveloped copper reserve in Southeast Asia.

Early this month, protesting workers shut down the firm's main office in Tampakan, its core farm, and grounded gasoline trucks used for drilling operations.

HIMPAD Mangumalas, a Higaonon, national president of the Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan sa Pilipinas, compares what is happening to indigenous peoples in the Philippines to the indigenous plant "bahi."

LUMAD datus pronounce the Indigenous People's Rights Act as a failure. PHOTOS BY GERMELINA LACORTE

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Mutiny has happy ending; no criminal raps filed

From page A1

On Nov. 5, their fourth day at work, they took action.

Jolted awake by the captain's buzzer after only two hours of sleep, seized by a fit of spontaneous protest, they barged into his cabin and locked him up.

It was a successful rebellion. Claiming that the captain and vessel owner had deprived them of food and rest, the Filipinos kept him under constant guard while one of them steered the boat back to port.

Tired and hungry

"We did not plan anything. It was spontaneous," Sumang, 33, told reporters at the airport.

"On the morning of Nov. 5, [the captain] was shouting at us. We were sleeping, then he buzzed our cabin. We all got up but somehow we no longer intended to work because we were already tired and hungry," he said.

Sumang, a resident of Valenzuela City who traveled to Mauritius to work as a first-time fisherman, quoted one of the other Filipinos as saying that it was best for the group to fight their boss' purported abuse.

"But we had no intention to hurt the captain," he said. "All that we intended to do was to return to the dock in Port Louis so we could go back to the Philippines."

According to Sumang, the group tried to negotiate with the captain on the morning of Nov. 4.

"We told him that we could no longer work for him and that he should just bring us back to Port Louis. But he did not budge," said Sumang. "The next day, when we woke up, because we were already tired and hungry, we decided to do it."

The way Sumang recounted it, the Filipinos, along with their Chinese coworkers, had morning-to-morning fishing shifts, rising early and working until around 4 a.m.

He and the others also said they were fed once daily, at times only porridge at the end of a long workday.

Cornered captain

When the Filipinos barged into Huang's cabin, he was quick to surrender:

"The big guys cornered him, held him by his arms, but that was all. Maybe he knew that we were all already angry, so he just knelt down, held his arms together and told us, 'OK, I will bring you back, I will bring you back," Sumang said, demonstrating the man's supposed gesture of holding his palms together as though in prayer."

The Filipinos seized the captain's mobile phone to prevent him from making outside contact.

Delter Algay said the phone was later returned to the captain even if the latter had told him to keep it.

Algay, a fisherman of 14 years, said it was he who had steered the vessel back to port, turning it around from close to the edge of the Indian Ocean to Port Louis.

"All that I was thinking of was for myself and my coworkers to survive, to get home alive without any of us getting hurt. That's all that I wanted. That's what we fought for," he told the INQUIRER.

Added Jesus Manaqued: "With God's grace, He used us to stop the captain's ways. Maybe God really sent us there for us to end his abuses. He has abused so many men of different nationalities. We were the only ones who made him kneel down."

Deference

The Chinese crewmen did not take part in the mutiny.

"They did nothing. They were just on the boat, but they were glad about what we did," said Sumang.

The journey back to port took two-and-a-half days. Throughout that time, the Filipinos took turns watching over the captain.

But while they were upset by his ways, they kept their respect for him as their superior.

"He was always the first person to eat," Sumang said. "In deference to him as our captain, we made sure he ate before we did... On the last day, when we were near the port, he was crying because despite the abuse he did to us, we treated him well, we treated him as a person."

The Filipinos were aware that they could be held criminally liable for taking control of the Ruei Thih Fa. Thus, upon reaching the port, they phoned home and got in touch with the media "so we will have a defense, so we will know how to explain ourselves to the Mauritius [government]," Sumang said.

'A crime was committed'

While the Filipinos were holding Huang captive, the Department of Foreign Affairs sent a consular officer to Mauritius from the Philippine consulate in Nairobi, Kenya, who established contact with them. (The Philippines has neither an embassy nor a consulate in Mauritius.)

"Definitely, a crime was committed, but [their prosecution] would have depended on local laws in Mauritius... But the authorities were just very lenient, because maybe the fishermen also had valid grievances," said Cresente Relacion, executive director of the DFA's Office of Migrant Workers' Affairs.

"It's mutiny in the high seas. Whether it is punishable under the country where the vessel is flagged, or the country where they will have their first port of call, it depends. Here, that is punishable under the RPC (Revised Penal Code)," Relacion said.

The Filipinos were able to return home because the captain did not press charges. Negotiations among the Filipinos, their employer, and the Philippine consulate in Nairobi resulted in an agreement for the employer to shoulder the cost of the seamen's repatriation to the Philippines and desist from filing charges.

In return, the Filipinos agreed to forfeit a month's salary to their employer.

The DFA said earlier that Huang had agreed to pay the Filipinos $200 and shouldered their hotel and meal expenses until they left Mauritius.

"I just hope [the captain] will change from now on," said Algay.

Honorary consul

The DFA is now looking for an honorary consul in Mauritius as a way to address the growing number of Filipino seamen there who have been maltreated by foreign ship captains, according to Vice Consul to Nairobi Bernadette Mendoza.

In a phone interview yesterday with Vice President Noli de Castro on the latter's radio program, "Para Sa Iyo, Bayan," Mendoza said a consular team that went to Mauritius had found out that there were many more cases of abuse against Filipino seamen there.

Mendoza, who had helped bring the nine Filipinos home, pointed out that the Philippines did not have diplomatic relations with Mauritius, the home port of many fishing vessels plying the Indian Ocean.

She said that when she was in Mauritius, she was able to talk with six other Filipino crewmen whose salaries had been delayed.

She said the last report she had received was that the six finally received their salaries but were planning to transfer to a vessel bound for Malaysia.

De Castro, who is President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on overseas Filipino workers, said the DFA should choose an honorary consul who could best protect the rights of Filipinos in Mauritius.

He requested the Philippine Overseas and Employment Administration to file charges against one Tony Chua, who had recruited the nine Filipinos who returned to Manila on Friday.

The nine seamen were guests at De Castro's radio program, where they again recounted their experience on board Huang's ship.

They said they were forced to scare the captain with knives and detain him to end the abuse.

Another one

Mendoza said another Filipino seaman on the same ship, Alfredo Franco, was still in Mauritius awaiting repatriation to the Philippines.

She said Franco did not take part in the mutiny but decided to join the nine in their effort to return to the Philippines. Mendoza said Franco would be able to return once his travel documents are processed. Meanwhile, he is staying with the Filipino community in Mauritius, she said. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Now, NPC hides 'hideous' mural

From page A1

had commissioned the artwork in the first place. Then the NPC considered auctioning it off or selling it to the INQUIRER. On Friday, the mural was removed from the club and taken to a safe place to protect it from vandals, said NPC president Roy Mabasa.

Antigovernment militants, carrying cans of paint, slipped into the building last Thursday along with print photographers, but they were stopped before they could get inside the restaurant on the fourth floor where the mural hung, he said.

"They were mouthing antigovernment slogans, and were carrying cans of paint. So there was an intention to pour paint on it," Mabasa said in a phone interview.

"Due to the threat, we deemed it necessary to put [the mural] in a safe place to protect it. While it has stirred up so much controversy, we love the mural. Remember, it was our idea," he said.

The NPC president said the painting was kept in a "very safe place" and declined to go into specifics.

The mural would be reinstalled once the furor over the alterations has died down, he added.

Hideous alterations

The Neo-Angono Artists Collective (NAAC), which protested the hideous alterations to the 8-feet-by-32-feet mural commissioned by the NPC at a cost of P900,000 has drawn support from artists, art critics and art groups.

Mabasa said the NPC respected the artists' claim that they maintained intellectual property rights over the mural and that they could go to the NPC to restore it.

He also reiterated their willingness to sit down for a dialogue with them.

"All of us came in with good intentions. We just had differences in interpretation," he said. "If time permits, once it (furor) subsides, both parties should sit down and come up with a win-win solution."

Rejected proposals

The artists have so far rejected proposals to restore the mural, and hold a dialogue with NPC officials.

The NPC is also considering auctioning the mural off, according to Mabasa.

NPC secretary Louie Logarta had proposed selling the painting to the INQUIRER since some of the figures depicted in the mural there are connected with the paper. But he has yet to bring the matter up to the board, the NPC president said.

"It's just a suggestion," he said.

London calls

After a tumultuous week, now comes an invitation for the Angono artists to exhibit in London their original design of the mural painting before it was altered by the NPC.

James Elphick, an organizer of art, performance and music events, has written the NAAC that he wanted to exhibit the painting in his next event in South London on the second week of December.

He said he wanted to exhibit the original design for the mural, and possibly, the "censored version" so the public "can see the differences for themselves."

"I would very much like to highlight your problem with the NPC, by exhibiting a copy of your mural at my next event," he said in an e-mail to the group of multi-media artists.

Elphick said he organizes art, performance and music events in London, but not for profit.

The Angono artists, who had tangled and traded barbs with NPC officials in the media over the alterations to their mural on press freedom were flattered by the invitation.

"Personally, it's heartening to get this kind of invitation especially in the face of problems that we're having," NAAC president Richard Gappi said in an interview by phone.

Collective decision

The group, however, has yet to convene the board to tackle the issue, and consult their lawyer on how to go about it. "We have to decide collectively," he said.

The mural—depicting a man reading a newspaper in the middle of a crowd on a busy street as press freedom icons mill around him—was unveiled by President Macapagal-Arroyo during the NPC's 55th founding anniversary on Oct. 26.

The President's guards had noticed some leftist marks on the painting, prompting the NPC to call in a new artist to retouch it overnight on Oct. 25 since the Angono artists were not available.

NPC officials said they were forced to alter some portions because the artists had failed to meet the condition that the piece should be apolitical.

Chorus of protests

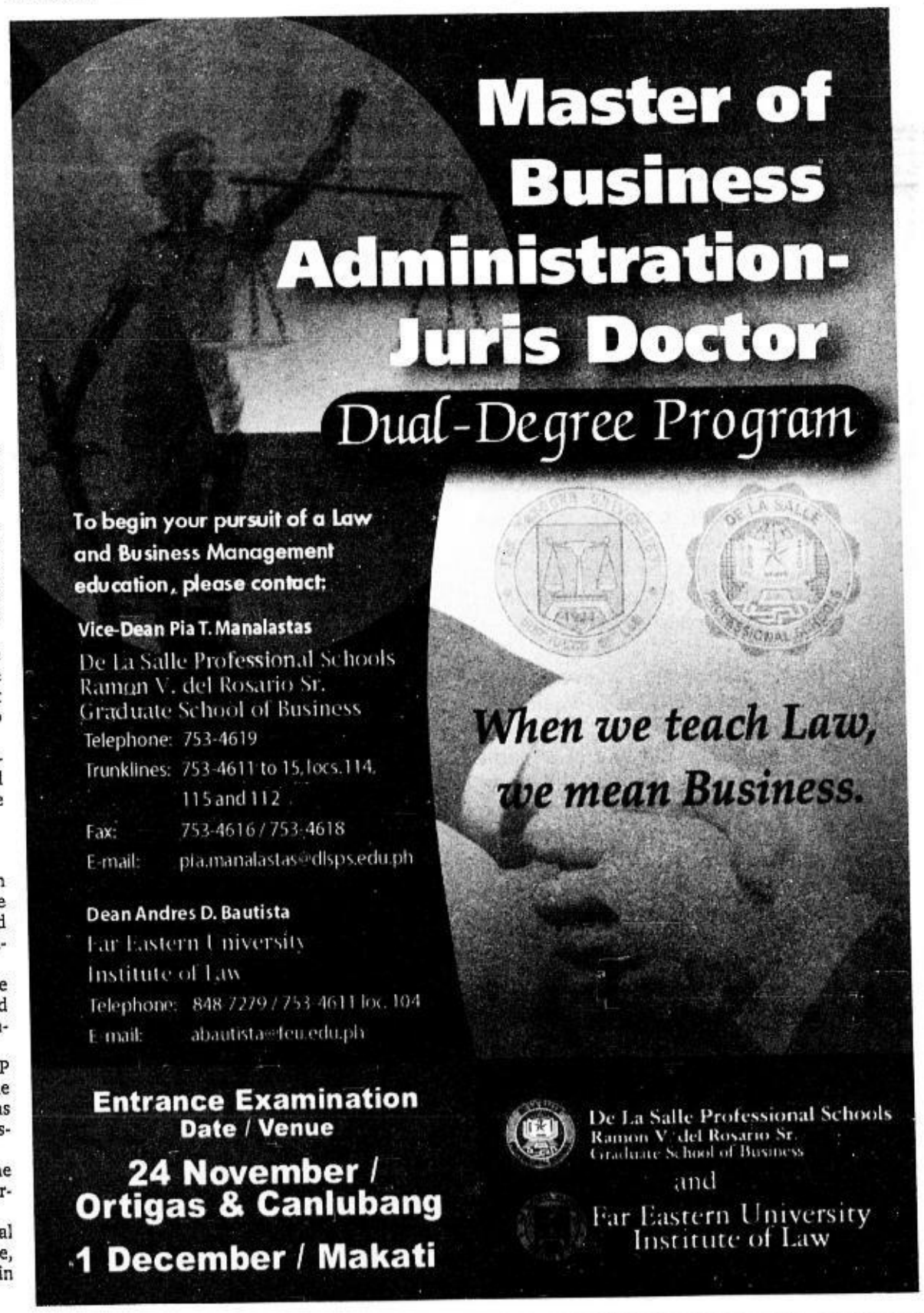
Meanwhile, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), whose editorial in the mural was among those altered, has joined the chorus of condemnation over the "censorship" of the artwork.

It was concerned "by the changes made to the press freedom mural" commissioned by the NPC, it said in an e-mail to the Angono artists.

"The IFJ supports the stance of the NUJP and is concerned about the attack on the freedom of expression of a mural that was intended to highlight press freedom issues," it added.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines earlier protested the alterations.

Other alterations included the removal of the name of the NUJP, an IFJ affiliate, from the banners of protestors depicted in the mural.



Late SPORTS

More Sports stories on A23 to 26

ROBERTO Gomez continues to soar for RP. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

'Superman' flies high

Gomez seals WPC title showdown with Peach

By Musong R. Castillo

SUPERMAN IS STILL FLYING HIGH, AND he has the Philippine flag as his cape.

Robert Gomez annihilated Englishman Karl Boyes, 11-4, in the semifinals, keeping Philippine hopes of a repeat in the World Pool Championship aloft last night with yet another courageous performance at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

Nicknamed internationally after the popular super hero, the 29-year-old Gomez rallied from a 0-4 deficit in the $400,000 event.

And at the other end of the table starting at 2:30 p.m. today—where $100,000 awaits the winner—is another Englishman in Daryl Peach, who first ended Francisco "Django" Bustamante's dreams before disposing of Hungarian Vilmos Foldes, 11-2, in the other semifinal.

"Hindi ako tumitingin kung sino ang kalaban ko (I don't really mind who my opponent would be)," Gomez said.

This will mark the second straight year that a Filipino will be playing for all the marbles after Ronnie Alcano won last year's title.

And this match will seal Gomez' place as one of the heavyweights in the sport, not bad for someone who already is the first qualifier to ever make the title match of this event.

Gomez steadily clawed out from that four-rack hole, never giving Boyes the chance to turn the match around after taking a 6-4 lead.

Gomez, who also covered the crime beat for a television network in Zamboanga two years ago, allowed Boyes back in the table at 6-4, when he had no play on the blue 2 after dropping two balls on his break.

But Boyes, who made the Final Four after claiming the scalp of Filipino Joven Bustamante, 11-8, in the quarterfinals, scratched in his escape shot and left the stocky Gomez a wide-open table.

Meanwhile, Peach, after going through virtual hell before ousting Django in the Last Eight, 11-10, was deadly accurate against Foldes and will go into the championship as the first Briton to ever get this far here.

Things could turn out peachy for Daryl

By Musong R. Castillo

PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN AROUND LONG enough swear that the best asset of Daryl Peach's game is his concentration.

That will be put to the test once again today, when he goes up against Robert Gomez—and practically an entire country—in the title match of the $400,000 World Pool Championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I'm a very down-to-earth guy, maybe that's the reason why I can keep very calm," Peach told the INQUIRER. "You can say that I can lock out some of the elements out there in the (pool) halls. I was able to do it against (Ronnie) Alcano (in the Last 64). I was able to do it against Django (Bustamante in the quarterfinals) and I will try to do it again against Robert."

The 35-year-old from Blackpool said that "thinking of something" good during matches keeps him calm.

Breaking down after defeating Bustamante, 11-10, Peach admitted to feeling his legs abandon him in his last two racks against the Filipino ace.

"I don't know how I was able to finish that match," he said.

And with Filipino fans showing their displeasure when he nipped Bustamante, Peach expects the same thing against Gomez.

His victory over Bustamante shoved the Filipino star out of yet another title chance after a disputed match.

Bustamante battled back from a 4-9 deficit, took the hill first but failed to come up with a good preparation for the 3, which sat beside the 9. Only a kick shot off one rail was his option, and Bustamante took the gamble that saw him sink the 9 in the top corner pocket.

But referee Nigel Rees went to video replays of the shot before declaring it a foul.

PEACH: Ready to face hostile crowd anew. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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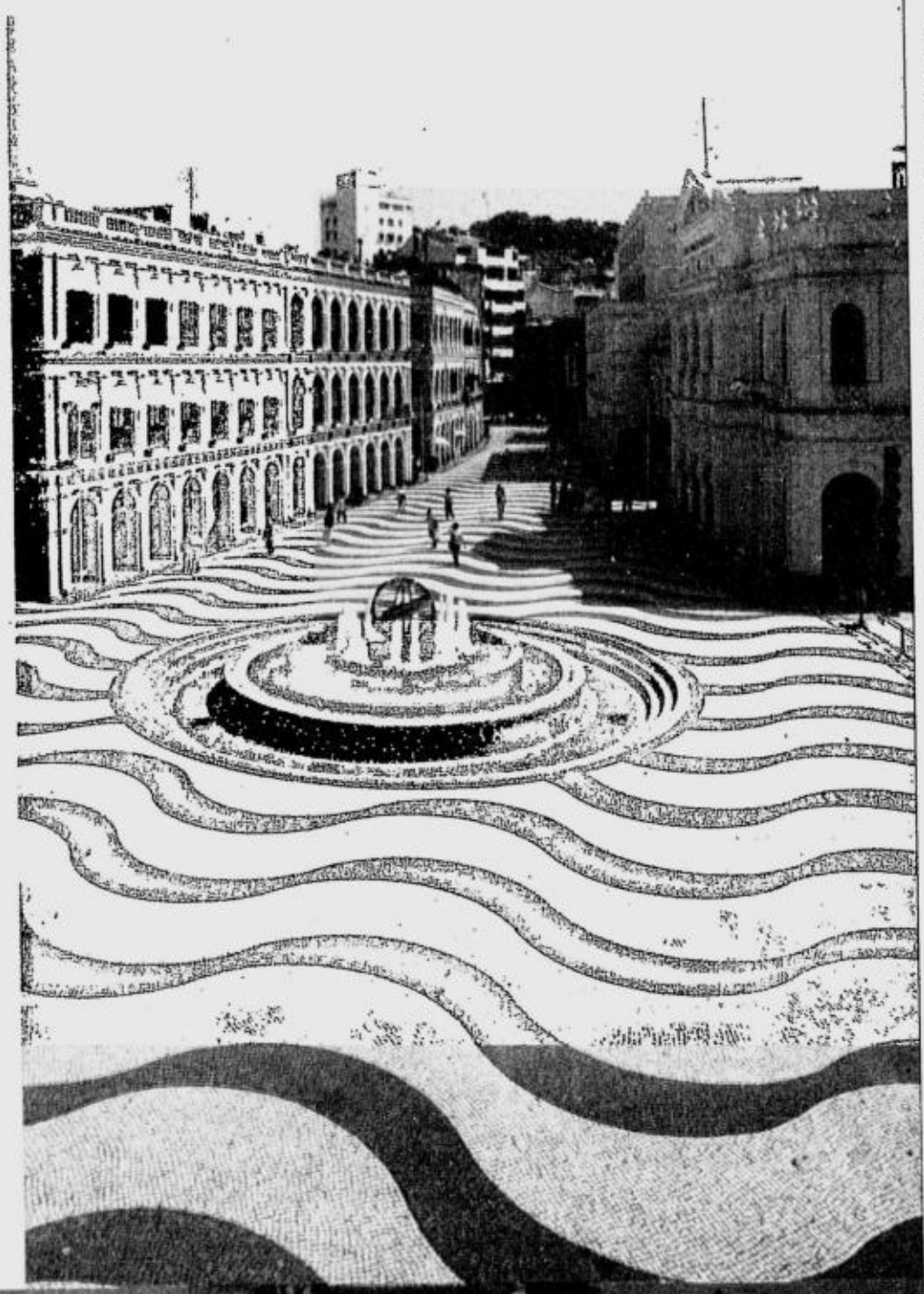

New pool magic from ex-newsman

By Recah Trinidad

THEY HAD TO WONDER WHY, OF ALL things, he is called Superman.

Unknowing experts would stop asking only after Roberto Gomez, a former newsman from Zamboanga, blotted out a European pool star to enter the quarterfinals of the 2007 World Pool Championship close to midnight Friday at the Araneta Coliseum.

There has never been such a feat in the history of the tournament, WPC officials said.

Naturally, there was stunned silence, followed by wild cheers, as the 29-year-old assumed a place no great names in the tournament has ever reached following an incredible 11-0 dismantling of the respected Niels Feijen of Netherlands.

But more than the shutout, it was the cool control that saw the vibrant, thick-chested Gomez clearing up racks with surgical precision Friday that formally ushered in what could be the biggest, brightest new name in world pool hereabouts.

"I just try to do my best always, that's the best that I know," Gomez told the INQUIRER.

With his hard-earned clinical sharpness, Gomez has also succeeded in taking away the agony, while bringing back sweet excitement for fans with painless, often impeccable operation on the felt table.

Of course, there were those who readily doubted Gomez's gifts and claimed he could've been favored mainly by lucky breaks.

Flawless and unforgiving

But yesterday, Gomez followed up his sizzling conquest of Feijen with a firm 11-4 drubbing of Taiwanese Kuo Po-cheng.

The conquest of Feijen was flawless, perfect; the beating of Kuo unforgiving.

Gomez battled back from a 0-4 deficit to enter the final with an 11-4 stoppage of Karl Boyes of England.

Gomez, father of one, said he handled his first cue stick in his hometown in Zamboanga shortly before he turned 10—and that was it.

Unlike many young heedless pool parlor habitues, Gomez, son of a school teacher, went on to finish a course in mass communications.

But he decided to quit his job as a reporter with ABS-CBN in his province and instead turned to playing pool full time.

For the record, Gomez said it was Efren "Bata" Reyes, his idol and model, who nicknamed him Superman.

"But this was only because I loved to wear Superman t-shirts when I played pool," he said.

Yesterday, after the hysteria and the victory stampede, there was nobody to wonder again whatever happened to The Magician.

They were absorbed with the golden, smiling presence of the stocky wunderkind with a dint of gold in his locks; he who plays his favorite boyhood game with winning painless precision.

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NOSTALGIA TRIP

Malabon's old houses survive despite the threats of time and tide

OWNING an old house has both its joys and trials, says Dr. Carmela Borja.

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE OLD MAJESTIC houses of Malabon City refuse to fade away into obscurity despite the threat of being erased from the map because of constant flooding.

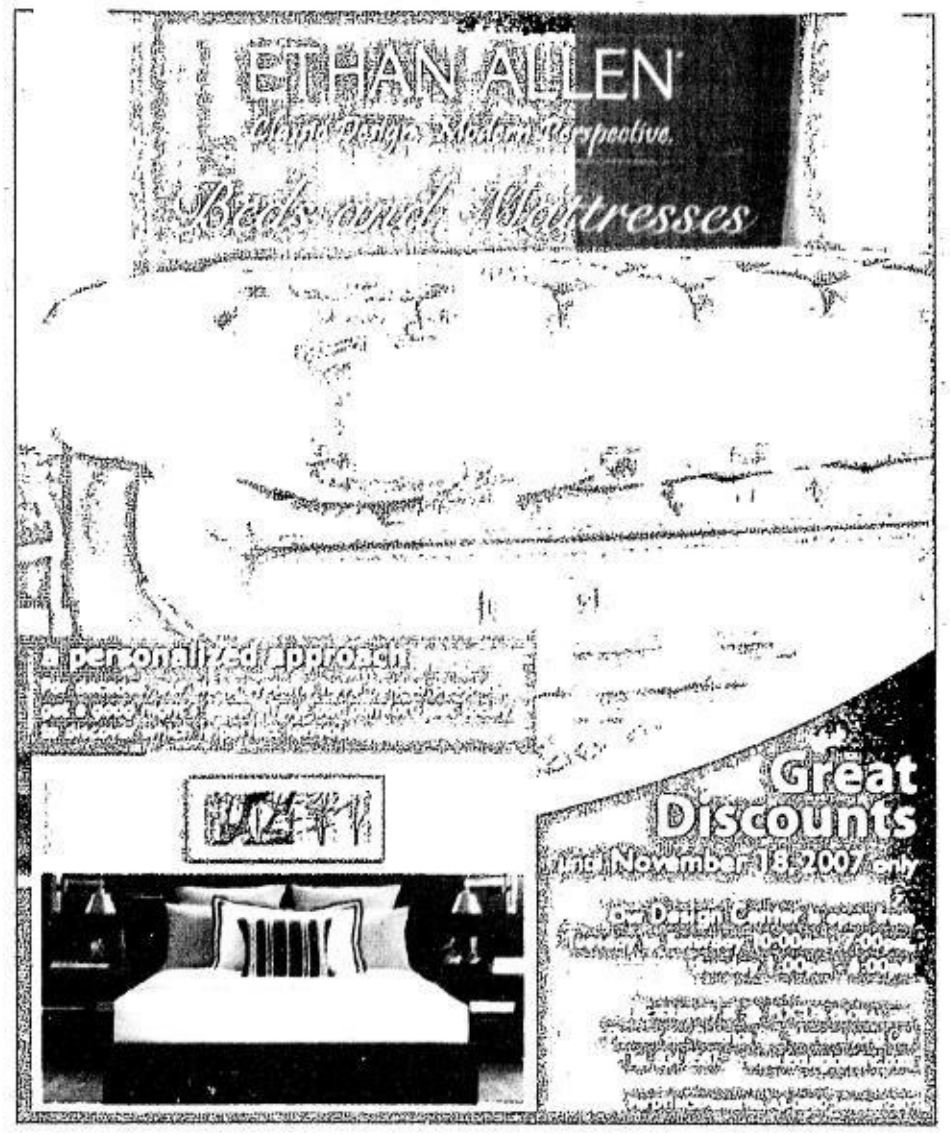
These century-old homes scattered all over the city have endured time and tide, literally, having survived murky floods that have been the city's perennial problem.

Despite being continuously ravaged by salt water, these grand houses remain solid as a fortress.

"Most of the old houses were originally three-story structures, but because of the constant flooding, their ground floors have became useless as these are always submerged in water," said Richard Bautista, one of the prime movers in the preservation of the city's historical structures.

Bautista, together with Monchet Lucas (whose family's famed Rufina Patis factory is also one of the city's attractions), and some owners of the old houses recently

MALABON'S/ A20



This photo was taken at the Glass House model unit across the Power Plant Mall.

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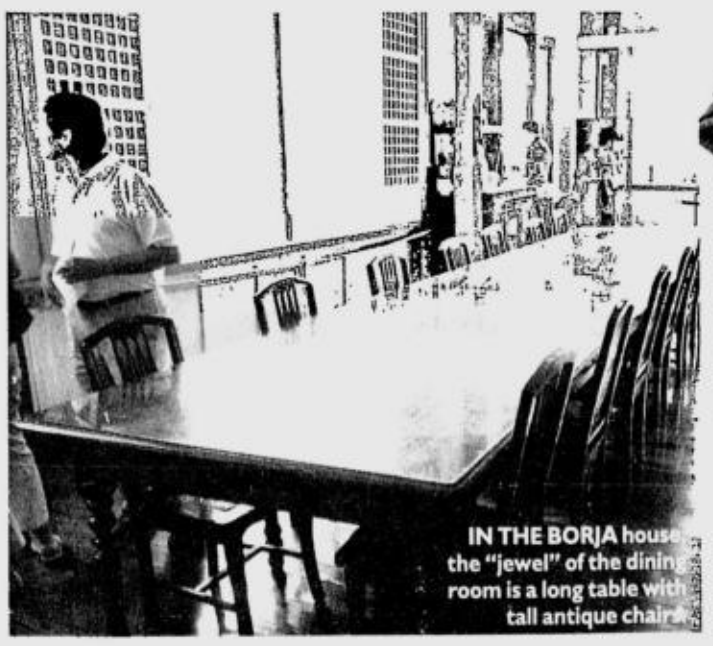
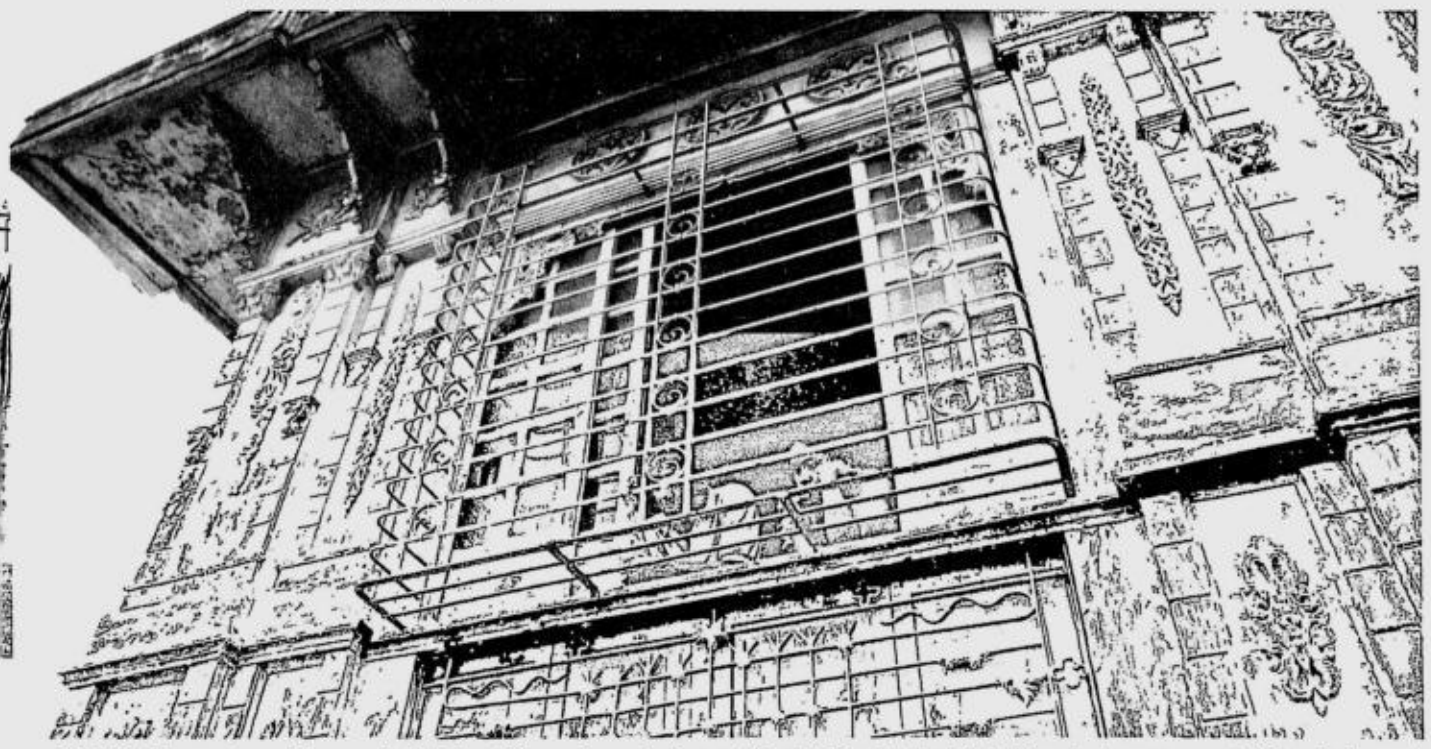


IN THE BORJA house, the "jewel" of the dining room is a long table with tall antique chairs.



MANY of the century-old houses in Malabon City are in need of a coat of paint. Despite their faded facade, however, most of the city's grand old houses are remarkably well-preserved.

Malabon's old houses survive . . .

From page A19

sponsored a tour of the city's "treasures."

The tour was dubbed as "Lusong Malabon," an acknowledgement of the city's predicament during high tide.

"We want to create awareness that there's more to Malabon City now and before," Lucas said.

Lucas, who also manages "Pescadores," one of the city's original restaurants located on Letre road (one of Malabon's most flood-prone areas) emphasized, "There is so much to see if you know where to look."

He explained that with the tour, they hope to give glimpses of the city as it was during a more illustrious era of huge houses, splendid churches and magnificent streets.

By promoting the old houses as a tourist attraction, they are hopeful that the city government could be prompted to act drastically on the flooding problem.

"Tourists travel all the way to the northern part of Luzon to see old houses when we have them here in Metro Manila," Bautista said.

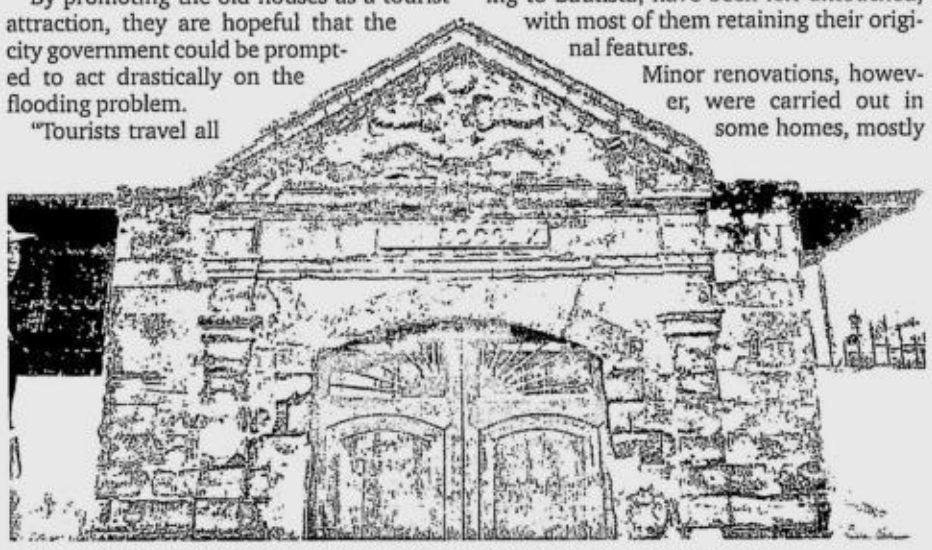
Malabon Mayor Canuto Oreta recently launched a project to declog the city's waterways. He has also repeatedly called on the Department of Public Works and Highways to expedite the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) flood control project which is being touted as the solution to the flooding problem in the area.

From the outside, the houses, despite their magnificent interiors, look like any old big house in need of a paint job to the untrained eye.

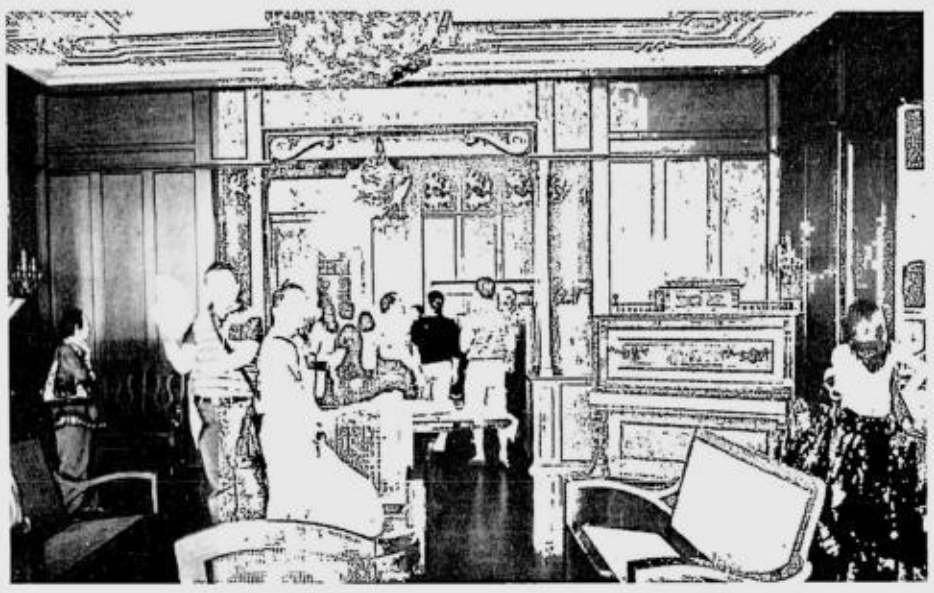
The facade of most of the houses, according to Bautista, have been left untouched, with most of them retaining their original features.

Minor renovations, however, were carried out in some homes, mostly in the electrical and plumbing systems.

THE HOUSES have a similar design: A long wooden staircase leading to a landing and the living room.



THE RAYMUNDO house was built in 1861, according to a sign above the gate.



"THERE is so much to see in Malabon City if you know where to look," says Monchet Lucas.

If any changes were made in the old houses, these were carried out keeping in mind the house's original design.

"Most of the style or architectural details were not altered and if renovations, particularly in the kitchen, were done, these were just to make it user-friendly," Bautista recounted.

Almost all of the houses, he explained are in Barangay Concepcion, a venue chosen by their original owners because of its proximity to their businesses.

Common features

Most of the houses share common features: A *narra* grand staircase which leads to a landing on the second floor. Wooden floors that are either made from *yakal, tindalo* or *narra*. A huge dining room with a long table in the center surrounded by tall antique chairs.

In addition, the living rooms are as big as a medium-sized ballroom in a hotel.

Among the houses considered as one of the city's treasures, owned by the Dionisio family, is located on Gen. Luna Street.

The hardwood and stone house was built in the 1920s and underwent renovations in the 1990s but it has retained its original features, according to Pacita Dionisio-Bautista, the wife of former Ambassador to England Cesar Bautista. "We wanted it preserved as a reminder of our family's roots," she said.

Located in a place which is now a commercial area, the house's added attraction is a small statue of the country's national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, standing at the entrance.

The huge living room, with its shiny *narra* floor and century-old furniture, can easily be converted into a dance hall.

According to Pacita, few changes were made when the house was renovated. It still looks the way it did when it was built in the 1920s, she pointed out.

The Martinez house, which looks out on a busy street, was another stop on the "Lusong Malabon" tour.

"This house is well-preserved and it can remain strong and safe for the next 100 years," said Terry Martinez, whose family is in the fishing business.

She said that they tried to preserve all of their home's original features, including the intricate drawings in the living room.

"The original wall with paintings was covered by the previous owner who apparently disliked exquisite prints on the walls," she said.

The house has two grand staircases leading to an elegant living room which is about the size of a ballroom.

Staying in a huge house like theirs took some getting used to, she revealed. "It took a while before I got accustomed to sleeping in such huge surroundings. I even had to leave the television set on at one point, because it seemed so vast and quiet," Martinez said.

An air-conditioning unit and a television set are the only modern additions to the Martinez bedroom which has a huge antique four-poster bed and an old-fashioned porcelain sink in one corner.

The Rojas-Borja house, which is also one of the most well-preserved homes in the city, has also retained its original features, including the pharmacy established by the family, when it was built in 1923.

"We have not changed any feature of the facade, including the pharmacy. We even retained its wooden signage," Dr. Carmela Borja said.

For the next generation

She pointed out that owning an old house has both its joys and trials. "It's expensive to maintain an old house but we are preserving it for the next generation," she added.

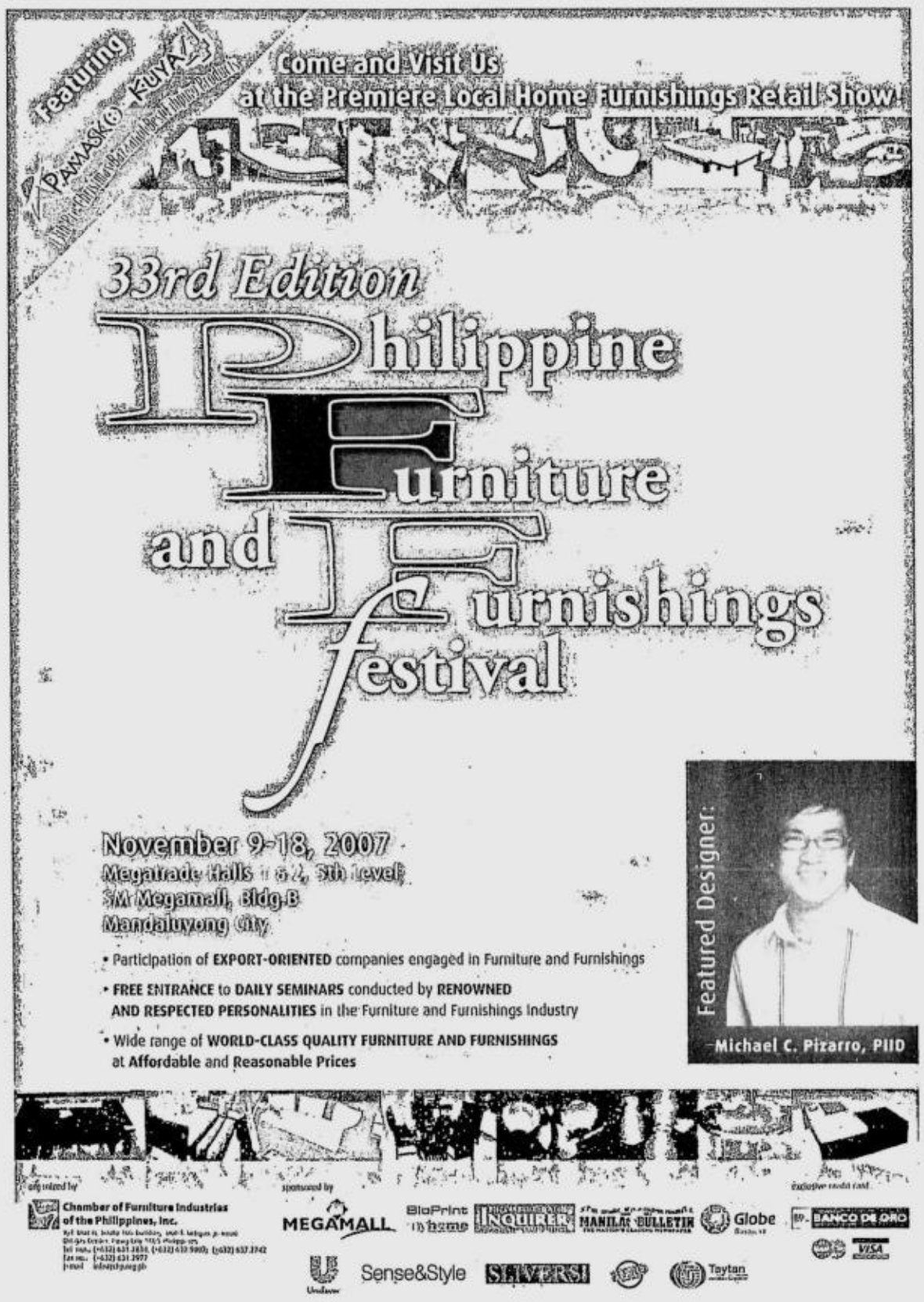
The Raymundo house, considered the oldest in the city, is also famous for a Hapsburg eagle by its gate that indicates the house was built in 1861.

What sets it apart from the others are the *narra* tree trunks that serve as the posts of the over 100-year-old house.

There are also old books displayed in antique glass shelves in the house. Among the books is a first edition of Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere."

According to Richard Bautista, the owners of the old houses have agreed that even though the structures may be subdivided among family members, "nothing should be sold outside the family."

It's the families' way of preserving their heritage, he said, adding that their ultimate goal was to keep the city's treasures safe and intact for future generations to enjoy.



"I'VE experienced living in another country where I had to do anything and everything just to survive. That's why I think highly of our fellow Filipinos who work hard abroad to support their families."
PIOLO PASCUAL, November 2007

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor **Gerry Lirio**

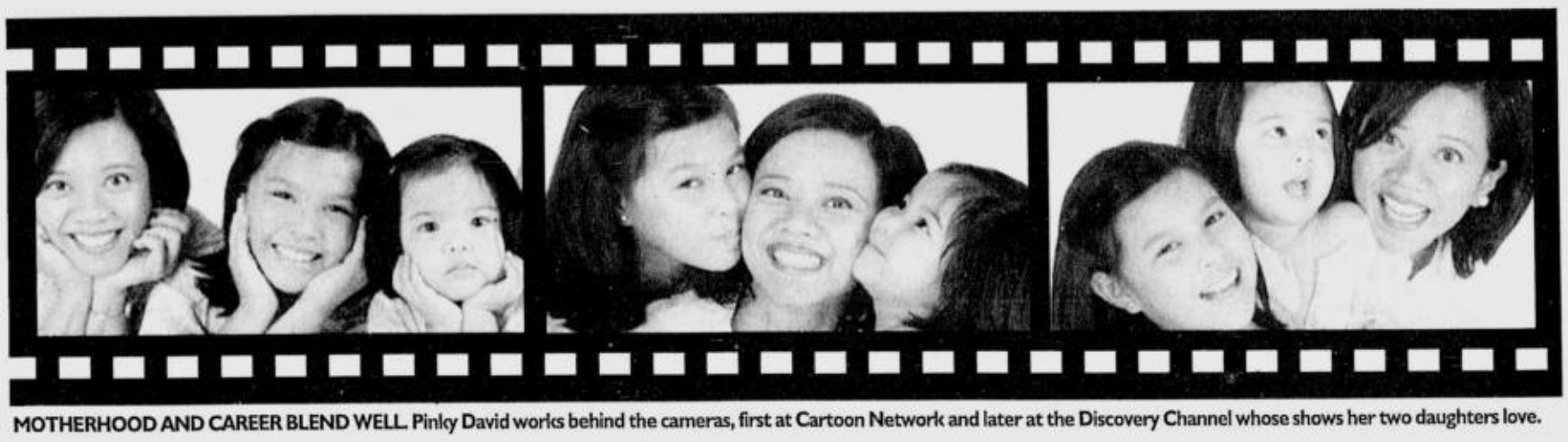
Hello! Anybody home?

About 90.5 percent of Filipinos talked with their OFW relatives through mobile phones in the first nine months of the year, according to a Nielsen Media Research survey; 44.8 percent through landlines while 27.7 percent used the Internet.

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

From cartoons to other discoveries

By Karlo Jose R. Pineda
Contributor



MOTHERHOOD AND CAREER BLEND WELL. Pinky David works behind the cameras, first at Cartoon Network and later at the Discovery Channel whose shows her two daughters love.

WHILE MOST mothers in their 30s have already outgrown cartoons, Pinky David, had just acquainted herself with off-the-wall animated characters that have caught the fancy of millions of youngsters across the globe.

Her engagement with cartoon characters, though, was not brought about by the typical *sala* scenario where parents and children would spend a sunny Saturday morning in front of the TV, or by being persistently urged by her kids to take a Powerpuff Girls doll or a Scooby Doo plushie as souvenir from a toy store. Instead, it was, in fact, once part of her work to generate such reactions.

PINKY: Loving, living, growing

"When I was made the offer to move to Hong Kong, I found myself in a crossroad when one has to decide for the ultimate benefit of one's own family. Aside from the obvious financial benefit, the experience to work regionally and internationally is by far the most attractive advantage," Pinky said, referring to her first stint as an overseas Filipino worker.

Career move

In 2000, she was employed as promotions licensing director in Cartoon Network, a cable television network under Turner Broadcasting, which also has top news network CNN under its wing. She was in charge of promotional licensing sales strategies for the company's brands.

Five years after promoting the colorful caboodles of Cartoon Network in Southeast Asian markets, Pinky became bound for new discoveries which were relative not only to the kids' world but to the entire humanity as well.

With her experience of working for Turner, Pinky harbored a career move in 2005 which she now regards as "most fulfilling and very rewarding." Still at the top of her marketing form, the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation-bestowed Honorary CPM (Certified Professional Marketer) shifted office to yet another international media titan—Discovery Channel.

"I decided to move to Discovery Channel because of the brand, the offer and the position," said Pinky, who is now living in Singapore with her two daughters. "But more importantly I decided favorably as well because of the location. I really believe the environment here is healthier and more conducive to raise young children."

As the current global licensing director of Discovery Channel, who leads the development, sales, marketing, and distribution of Discovery consumer products in the Asia Pacific region, including Japan and Australia, Pinky fosters even more her drive for marketing superiority.

Agora awardee

"I will not claim to be more deserving than the rest of my fellow hardworking Filipinos who truly are also global executives working relentlessly and devotedly both in and out of the Philippines," she said, "I will, however, continue to aim to be the best Filipino marketing executive the country can be proud of."

She added: "And I hope to serve as an inspiration and an example to all aspiring and budding practitioners in our country. After all, Discovery's goal, besides informing and educating people, is inspiring them."

Due to her steady performance as an overseas marketer, highlighted when Cartoon Network attained its number one position in the industry within its category, Pinky was conferred by the Philippine Marketing Association with the 2006 Asia-Pacific Agora Award For Marketing Excellence.

Long before that, Pinky had already proven herself in the industry. During her term as the director of communications of Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel, the hotel bagged its first Kalakbay Hotel of the Year Award given by the Department of Tourism.

Devoted mom

"I have also made a $5 million gross revenue business roll-up of a $10,000 investment," she added, recounting her active involvement in another firm specializing on licensed products for promotions. It led to the majority of all the kid's meals of Jollibee featuring licensed properties, including the Flintstones, Looney Tunes, Batman, and Dexter's Laboratory, to name a few. A marketing maven to reckon with, indeed.

To be an Agora awardee, one has to be in the caliber of Tony Tan Caktiong of Jollibee, Socorro Ramos of National Bookstore, and Henry Sy of SM Malls, among others. More than being the country's emblems of pride, these people who have excelled in their respective fields, are now serving as advocates of progress.

Stripped off of her elevated professional repute, the 39-year-old Pinky is basically a family woman, who believes that to live and engage fully with one's family is the most noble of all purposes.

"I am a devoted mother first and foremost, and I have two gifted daughters whom I enjoy loving, living, growing, seeing, playing and being with as much as I possibly can," she said.

Onto Disney World

She's so proud to announce that the Singapore government's Ministry of Education has confirmed that her eldest is now in the Gifted Education Program after making it to the 550 selected students who passed the screening process and exams. They were 36,000 in her batch.

A single parent, Pinky devotes quality time to her daughters, Tricie and Mandy, assuring them that they are always a top priority in her hectic life. She writes them simple notes before leaving for work, tucks them to bed. She sings them lullabies every night before spending the wee hours answering e-mails. She even plans to someday write a book in their honor.

Besides enjoying her motherhood, Pinky is also into reading books and practicing Yoga.

Currently, Pinky has her hands full preparing the latest installment of Discovery's communications campaign, which, according to her, is her most challenging task to date. She is setting up, managing, coordinating and implementing the launch of the Discovery Channel magazine, a licensed undertaking with Reader's Digest Asia as the publisher.

Young at heart

The bi-monthly magazine, she said, will be ready for public consumption in February 2008. With the project, she aspires to continue being an instrument in satisfying one's curiosity and fulfilling the thirst for knowledge.

"It is difficult to comprehend how one life can make an impact in the world today but I strongly believe that one's existence is truly connected and thus affects life and the world, in general and in all its immensity. And there is a great sense of pride in being a Filipino when I carry out such tasks," she said.

So, is Pinky getting too serious with a life revolving on hard facts and astounding trivia instead of the pie-in-face humor of cartoons?

Here's what she has to say: "I would like to take my kids to Disney World in Florida just to fulfill what I have promised them. It's really nice to be young at heart most of the time, especially in the company of my two wonderful angels."

'Our father does it not only for us but for our country's future'

By Emman Cena

THEIR STORIES ARE NOT EXceptional from thousands of children of overseas Filipino workers. They also have their own share of missed holidays, parents' no-show in school ceremonies and so the list goes on.

But how they performed well in school and how they have excellently written an essay contest piece on how expat children could contribute to nation-building clinched siblings Kristine Anne and Neil Stephen Lopez as two of the 10 outstanding expat Pinoy children, a search sponsored by the Bank of Philippine Islands.

Business for heroes

The Search for the 10 Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children is BPI's first, as part of its 156th year aniversary. The awarding ceremonies was held last Aug. 3.

As children of an engineer in Indonesia, Kristine and Neil recall how they were able to cope with growing up without their father. Still, they fared well in school, even graduating at the top of their class in elementary and secondary schools at Chevalier School in Pampanga.

Part of Neil's essay titled "The Advent of nation-building" says, "As an expat Pinoy, (my father) did not just invest in our country, he did not just invest in a bank but more than everything else, he invested in our future. He invested not only for my future but also for the future of our country."

The essay, which formed most of the criteria for judging, revolved on the topic "Your Role in nation-building as a child of an expat Pinoy." The 10 winners selected nationwide won a cash prize of P50,000, a cellular phone and a trophy.

Kristine's piece, on the other hand, titled "Heroes" tackled her intentions to put up businesses for OFWs and their families as soon as she graduates as management student at Ateneo de Manila University. "Heroes, because my father is my hero and I would also like to be a hero for others."

The BPI says the search is the bank's way to stir consciousness of expat Pinoy children the need to give importance to the sacrifices being made by their parents.

Nothing really big has changed from his win, Neil tells the INQUIRER in an interview. "But I won the award for my parents and siblings. I wanted to make them happy."

Personally, Neil thinks it has brought him some sense of self confidence, says Neil who is in his second year at De La Salle University in Manila taking up mechanical engineering.

"Sometimes you need something to prove to yourself that you're still worth something and you're still made up of the same thing. (The award) helped in making me believe in myself and in my own abilities," he said.

Kristine, on the other hand, says it "gives me a sense of fulfillment and pride to my father who has been working abroad for 11 years now."

The Lopez family resides in Angeles City, Pampanga in a house and lot bought from the fruits of hard work and overseas labor.

When asked on how far the money has gone, Neil says part of his money went to some blowouts to friends and families while the rest is still in the bank for future use. Kristine on the other hand has used it to pay for school expenses and graduation fees.

NEIL Lopez

Two kids feel no resentment for their dad, knowing he is diligently working abroad precisely for them

KRISTINE Lopez

LOVING PARENTS, NICE KIDS. Noel and Normita Lopez with two kids show that every good thing begins at home.

As an expat child, Kristine says nothing extraordinaire in her life growing up and says it was expected that her father Noel was a no-show in any of her graduation ceremonies.

"It was my mom who attends and puts on my medals. Growing up, I didn't exactly feel I was less of a child since we had toys as *balikbayan* packages from him. It was only until I get at the right age I realized the what-could-have-beens and might-have-beens had his father stayed with them throughout."

It was also the same story for Neil, save for his graduation day in high school when his father showed up. "I became closer to my mom. When I have something to ask from dad, I often tell my mom first . But now that he goes home often, I become more comfortable with him."

Their parents Normita and Noel Lopez say they didn't expect the kids of winning although they know they're capable of making it.

"I was really surprised. I really can't believe that they both clinched it. We thought the first decision may be overturned because they are siblings. We expected that at least one of them to win," says Normita, now a housewife looking after their four children, two of whom—Katrina and Kathleen—are still in Pampanga and in high school.

Life after Subic

Noel's stint as engineer at Rolls Royce-Indonesia has proved to be God's blessing to the Lopez family. He has been abroad for 11 years now, starting in Singapore in September 1996 as automation engineer after leaving the Subic naval base where he once worked.

"We were able to buy a house and lot of our own and we were able to put our children to exclusive schools," says Noel.

Whenever he misses home, Noel Lopez checks on his kids' Friendster accounts on the Web. Time permitting, he comes home, but the feeling of missing out important holidays with family and attending his kids' school ceremonies does not compensate the money he earns.

"It was psychologically difficult but I will do everything for the sake of my family. I want them to learn and understand the power of choice. The future and destiny depend on their life's choices."

"I don't discourage them from working abroad in the future if they feel like it. But I would rather want them to run business locally or find a stable job. It was a sacrifice to be away from your loved ones."

Asked for their future plans, the elder Kristine says she doesn't have concrete plans yet but a business venture is the most likely thing she would engage in. Neil says he wants to work in a good company so he could help out his family in return.

Editor's note: The IMFO column of lawyer Lou Tancinco will resume next Sunday.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Suu Kyi 'optimistic' over Burma talks

WORLDBRIEFS

Bhutto freed from house arrest

BHUTTO AP

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's government freed former premier Benazir Bhutto from house arrest Saturday as the United States urged President Pervez Musharraf to end emergency rule and set firm dates for elections. The order assigning Bhutto to house arrest was lifted overnight—although police still guarded the ends of her street with concrete barriers and barbed wire—after a day that saw clashes on the streets and a suicide bombing. She had been blocked from leading a rally in nearby Rawalpindi against the state of emergency imposed by Musharraf a week ago, with the government citing fears that bombers were targeting the protest. *AFP*

Ex-NY top cop charged with corruption

NEW YORK—Former New York police commissioner Bernard Kerik, a close ally of Republican presidential front-runner Rudolph Giuliani, was formally indicted Friday on charges of tax evasion and corruption. Kerik, appointed city police chief when Giuliani was New York mayor, surrendered to authorities after a federal grand jury indicted him on 14 counts including tax evasion, wire fraud and making false statements. "Time and again Kerik was asked specific questions about his financial dealings and time and again he lied," US attorney Michael Garcia told reporters, unveiling the 14-count indictment in White Plains, New York. *AFP*

Bush, Merkel hold ranch talks on Iran, Afghanistan

MERKEL AP

CRAWFORD, Texas—US President George W. Bush welcomed German Chancellor Angela Merkel to his Texas ranch Friday for two-day talks on issues like Iran and Afghanistan, with barbecue and maybe a hike on the menu. Bush and Merkel—who joined an elite group of world leaders invited to the "Prairie Chapel" property—were expected to showcase diplomatic efforts to confront Tehran over what the West suspects may be a nuclear weapons program. "In Texas, when you invite somebody to your home, it's an expression of warmth and respect. And that's how I feel about Chancellor Merkel," said Bush, who he hoped for "constructive talks as well as a chance to relax and visit." US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was to be on hand Saturday to discuss the Middle East peace process, as well as efforts to stabilize Afghanistan, Kosovo's future, pressure on Burma, and Lebanon's political crisis. *AFP*

RANGOON, BURMA—Detained prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi said she believes the ruling junta of Burma (Myanmar) has the will to end the country's decades-long political crisis, as she met senior members of her party for the first time since 2004.

Suu Kyi told her colleagues that she is "very optimistic" about the prospects of holding a dialogue with the junta, said Nyan Win, a spokesperson for her National League for Democracy party.

Taking advantage of an opening fostered by the mediation of a UN envoy, Suu Kyi met for an hour with three top executives of her party, as well as with the government's "minister for relations" who serves as a liaison officer to her.

SUU KYI (left) shakes hands with Relations Minister Aung Kyi on Nov. 9. AP

Suu Kyi looked "fit, well and energetic like before. She is full of ideas." said Nyan Win, who also attended the hour-long meeting at a government guest house. Suu Kyi was brought there from her home nearby where she is kept under house arrest.

Their meeting, from which public and press were kept well away, was permitted by the government after UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari on Thursday completed a six-day visit to Burma to promote a dialogue between the ruling junta and Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi already signaled her willingness to follow Gambari's initiative in a statement released Thursday night after the departure of the UN envoy, who met her for an hour just before leaving.

"In the interest of the nation, I stand ready to cooperate with the government in order to make this process of dialogue a success," Suu Kyi said in her statement, which Gambari read aloud in Singapore.

Her statement also prodded the junta, officially known as the State Peace and Development Council, to move more quickly in dealing with her.

She said she hoped that the preliminary consultations with minister for relations Aung Kyi could be concluded soon "so that a meaningful and time-bound dialogue with the SPDC leadership can start as early as possible." *AP*

Latin Mass draws interest after ease in restrictions

MERCHANTVILLE, N.J.—UNTIL a few weeks ago, Kelly Rein, 16, spent most Thursday nights doing homework. These days, Kelly wears a lace mantilla over her striped T-shirt and stovepipe jeans and attends a class on the traditional Latin Mass.

"I always attended the English Mass, but I never really paid much attention," said Kelly, who took her parents and sisters to St. Peter Roman Catholic Church in this Philadelphia suburb, where the first traditional Latin rite is scheduled for December.

At a Catholic summer camp, Kelly was struck by the reverence of the Latin Mass.

"It's quiet," she said. "People are paying attention. In the English Mass, it's noisy. There are babies crying. But here people are completely focused on God."

More than 40 years ago, the groundbreaking Second Vatican Council introduced Mass in the vernacular, sending the Latin Mass into disuse and alienating some Catholics.

But last summer, Pope Benedict XVI eased restrictions on the rite, and new celebrations of the Latin Mass are flowering. To the surprise of many, the rite has attracted priests and parishioners too young to have experienced the Latin Mass when it was the norm.

For adherents of the traditional Latin Mass, the interest of young people is proof of its enduring resonance and offers hope that it may revitalize an American church struggling to hold on to the young.

But the groundswell that many backers had predicted has not surfaced and seems unlikely, Catholic liturgists and church officials, say. The traditional Latin, or Tridentine, Mass has emerged in just one or two parishes in most of the 25 largest dioceses in the country, according to a survey of dioceses.

The Tridentine Mass was codified in 1570 at the Council of Trent, after which it is named. In it, the priest faces the altar, not the congregation. He prays in Latin, much of it in a whisper, although readings from Scripture and the sermon are in the vernacular. A missal in Latin and English allows parishioners to follow along.

After the switch to the vernacular, Pope John Paul II allowed the Tridentine Mass to be heard, but only with the permission of local bishops. *NYT*

Sunday SPORTS

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■ Que bags Asean crown /A24

Tams rout Stallions; La Salle, UE withdraw

GAMES TOMORROW (*San Beda College Gym*)
2 p.m.—UST vs Mapua
4 p.m.—San Beda vs Sacred Heart

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FAR EASTERN U TAMARAWS rolled past the Manuel L. Quezon Stallions, 91-80, to advance to the Round of 8 at the start of the Collegiate Champions League yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Reil Cervantes and Marlon Adolfo shot 13 points apiece for the Tamaraws, who were ranked fifth after capturing the Unigames championship in Bacolod last month.

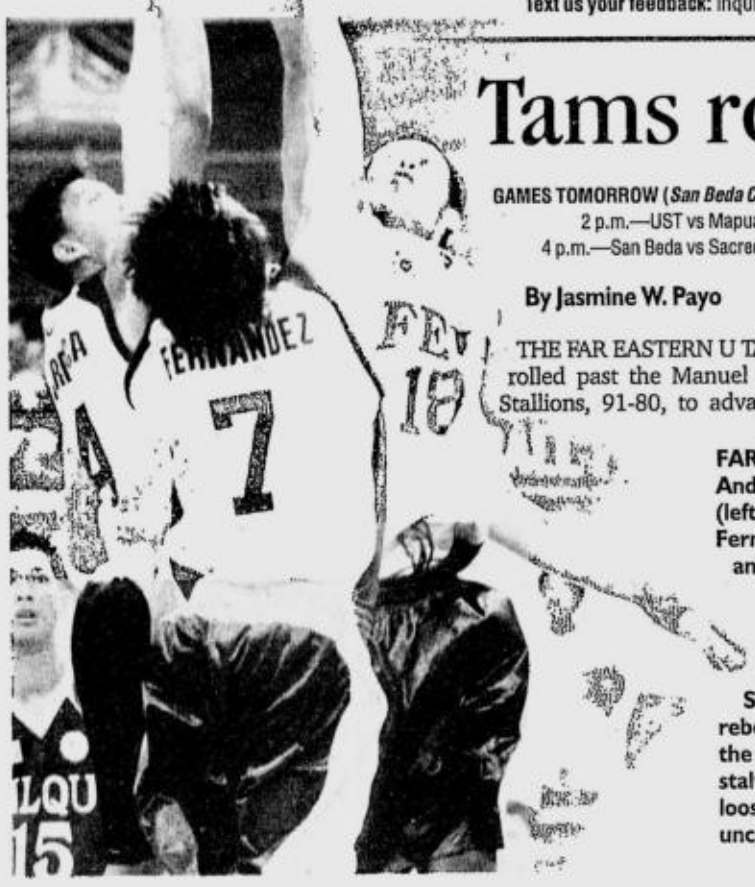
The competition, though, lost a lot of luster when UAAP champion De La Salle and runner-up University of the East recently withdrew from the tournament, which aims to pit the top 16 collegiate teams in the country.

Coach Franz Pumaren said his Archers needed a break after a long season, while the Warriors questioned their surprisingly low seeding.

"We have issued invites to all qualified teams," said tournament chair Rey Gamboa. "If they don't show up, their opponents will win by default."

The league seeded the Warriors fourth—behind third-ranked Ateneo—despite a UAAP Finals stint following a perfect 14-0 elimination record.

TAMS/ A25



FAR EASTERN'S Andy Marc Barroca (left) Benedict Fernandez (center) and Sonny Abaring typify the Tamaraws dominance of the MLQU Stallions in this rebound play, where the three FEU stalwarts soar for the loose ball virtually uncontested.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Hapee, Harbour stay unscathed

GAMES TUESDAY (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Hapee
4 p.m.—Mail and More vs Pharex

By Jasmine W. Payo

FIL-AM STAR GABE NORWOOD GAVE THE national team more reasons to take him in.

A slam dunk in the opening quarter got Norwood quickly fired up and his sensational all-around game sparked Hapee Toothpaste to its fourth straight victory in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Norwood, a versatile 6-foot-5 guard, delivered 21 points, seven rebounds, six assists and four steals as the Complete Protectors blasted winless Bacchus, 95-89, and kept a share of the top spot with Harbour Centre.

The Harbour squad whipped Toyota Balintawak, 103-86, to stay in the lead with Hapee at 4-0.

"I definitely wanted to come out and be aggressive," said Norwood, a former starter for US NCAA squad George Mason University. "I guess every time I get a dunk early in the game it changes my mentality. Whatever we have to do to win, that's all I try to do."

"He's starting to show his real game, his determination," noted Hapee coach Jun Noel.

Larry Rodriguez also shone by drilling 13 of his 21 points in the third period—aside from hauling 16 boards—to put Hapee up at 52-47 after trailing by as many as nine, 33-42, in the first half.

Fil-Am Solomon Mercado and Al Vergara shot 17 points apiece for Batang Pier, who led by as many as 24 points, 86-62, in pinning a third straight loss on the Road Kings.

National coach Junel Baculi jotted Norwood's name on top of his reinforcement wish list for the revamped squad that will compete in the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand next month.

The scores:

First Game

HAPEE 95—Norwood 21, Rodriguez 21, Juntilla 16, Borboran 10, Mercado 7, Grijaldo 7, Saguindel 6, Espiritu 3, Quinday 2, Hugnatan 2, Viray 0.

BACCHUS 89—Mondragon 16, Mendoza 16, Thiele 13, Dela Cruz 11, Martinez 9, Williams 7, Raymundo 6, Llagas 5, Fampulme 4, Labagala 2.

Quarters: 26-27, 39-45, 70-62, 95-89

Second Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 103—Mercado 17, Vergara 17, Maierhofer 14, Tang 13, Ababou 12, Gaco 9, Jahnke 5, Gonzales 5, Taylor 4, Gamboa 4, Dizon 3, Cañizares 0.

TOYOTA BALINTAWAK 86—Sta. Maria 21, Villanueva 13, Sena 10, Jaime 8, Rodriguez 5, Guerrero 5, Alcaraz 5, Casio 5, Aldave 5, hayes 4, balgos 2, Cole 2, Walsham 1, Retaga 0, Dedicatoria 0.

Quarters: 19-18, 42-42, 76-60, 103-86

Kings snap 4-game slide, trip Realtors

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:05 p.m.—Alaska vs Red Bull
6:30 p.m.—Welcoat vs Talk N Text

By June Navarro

MARK MACAPAGAL WAXED hot just in time as Barangay Ginebra escaped with a 103-90 victory over Sta. Lucia Realty in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Lagao Gymnasium in General Santos City.

Macapagal fired 14 of his 23 points in the pivotal quarter, including a couple of three-pointers in one crucial stretch that quelled the Realtors' uprising from 25 points down.

Celebrating the return of Eric Menk from a calf injury he sustained before the season started, the Gin Kings of coach Jong Uichico finally broke a four-game slide to tie the Realtors at 2-4.

Jayjay Helterbrand also provided several sparkling moments and finished with 24 points while Mike Holper and Billy Mamaril effectively covered up for Menk, who saw limited action in his season debut.

From a deep 54-29 hole, the Realtors worked their way up as coach Boyet Fernandez found the right combination in rookies Joseph Yeo and Christian Coronel and big men Dennis Daa and Kelly Williams.

Coronel ignited the rally with a long heave from beyond the arc, Yeo knocked in three more triples, while Daa struck twice as the Realtors pushed themselves within 71-67 midway in the fourth.

It was then that Macapagal took the initiative by scoring 13 of the Gin Kings' next 15 points.

Meanwhile, action shifts to the Cuneta Astrodome today when Talk 'N Text tries to sustain a winning run that put the Phone Pals to a second-running 4-2 record behind the unbeaten Purefoods TJ Giants (6-0).

The Phone Pals tackle the Welcoat Dragons at 6:30 p.m. after Red Bull and Alaska, which lost their recent games, take the floor at 4:05 p.m.

The Scores

GINEBRA 103—Helterbrand 24, Macapagal 23, Salvacion 14, Tubid 10, Reavis 9, Mamaril 9, Holper 8, Abarrientos 3, Artadi 2, Aquino 1, Menk 0, Escalona 0.

STA. LUCIA 90—Yeo 24, Williams 17, Reyes 12, Daa 7, Omolon 7, Aquino 5, Gonzales 5, Espino 5, Coronel 5, Mendoza 3, Miranda 0.

Quarters: 25-14, 51-29, 69-60, 103-90

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Que captures Asean crown in S'pore

FOR THE SECOND WEEK IN A ROW, SINGAPORE witnessed another "angelic" performance on the golf course after Angelo Que of the Philippines claimed the Laguna National Asean golf championship Sunday.

Que triumphed by one stroke over Malaysian Danny Chia and Singapore amateur sensation Quincy Quek a week after Angel Cabrera of Argentina, this year's US Open champion, won the Barclays Singapore Open.

Que closed with a three-under-par 69 at the Classic Course at Laguna National Golf & Country Club to finish with a stunning four-round aggregate of 20-under-par 268.

Chia also shot a 69 while Quek closed with a 66 in the $50,000 event.

A shot further back was Filipino Felix Casas, who shot a 68 after a six on the final hole.

Singapore's Mardan Mamat returned a 71 to finish in fifth place, seven behind Que.

Que and Chia were tied going into the final hole where they both hit poor drives.

But the Filipino salvaged a bogey from the rough while Chia found water down the right side and eventually finished with a double bogey after missing his bogey putt from 12 feet.

"This is a great win for me and this has given me a lot of confidence [as] I have never shot 20 under before, I think my best was about 12 under," said Que. *Asean Golf Tour*

Hope for swimming, basketball

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

TAIPEI—IF I COULD BE in two places at one time, I'd be here at the Taipei American School covering the City Group Invitational Swim Meet and aboard a flight to Singapore, where the Harbour Centre-Philippine team will play a series of tune-up games.

Not that I care less about the men's basketball team, but I had made a commitment to my friend Susan Papa as early as May, to join her age group swimmers in the two-day competition. The schedule conflicted with the Singapore series which I eventually had to give up.

* * *

Now in her early 50's Susan was all set to retire when she realized that she wants to contribute significantly to the sport.

The legendary swimmer wants to develop grass-roots talents by forming a nationwide swim league, where regular regional competitions would be held.

Susan presented her ideas to Dr. Ramon Roque, swimming association vice president, and lawyer Luz Arzaga Mendoza, who both reacted positively.

But that will have to come later.

Meanwhile, Susan hopes to be able to produce even just a handful of international talents from among the age group swimmers she is coaching.

* * *

The 13-man group Susan brought to Taipei, the Fighting Orcas, is one of two RP clubs competing in the meet. Their ages range from 7 to 14.

The other Philippine team is San Beda's Sea Lions.

The Orcas and the Sea Lions are going up against 11 teams from Beijing, Thailand, Shanghai and Taiwan.

Ably assisted by Dr. Susan Benasa, Susan is optimistic that the group, although composed mostly of beginners, will be able to deliver.

* * *

We were lucky to be in the entourage of Mr. and Mrs. Rod Reyes.

My former boss at the defunct Evening Paper, Rod was once Philippine ambassador to Taiwan.

Because we were with the Reyeses, we enjoyed the same diplomatic privileges and amenities accorded them.

Starting from the Naia all the way to Taipei, we where treated like VIPs.

The Reyeses are in Taipei to cheer for their grandchildren Nikki and Vincent, kids of Boy and Teresa Alvarez, their daughter.

***

On my second day here, I got word from home that Mikee Romero's assistance was also being sought by the financially distressed RP cagebelles, coached by Fritz Gaston.

While he may have the resources, Mikee, the owner of Harbour Centre, wasn't sure if handling two national teams at the same time would be a sound move, since it could divide his focus.

On the other hand, if he played godfather to both teams, he'd have two chances for the gold in the SEA Games this December.

I strongly urged him to hit for double.

SPORTSWATCH

South Africa golf: Aunzo trails

FERDIE AUNZO CARDED A ONE-OVER PAR 73 to trail by six at the start of the Sanlam Cape Province Open 2007 paced by local bet Nicholas Mitchell at the George Golf Club in George, South Africa Friday.

Reigning national champion Anthony Fernando went two-over 74 as the ICTSI-backed golfers struggled on an unfamiliar, hazard-laden layout.

Gene Bondoc shot a 75 while Asian Games bronze medalist Mike Bibat skied to a 78 in one of the major tournaments in South Africa.

Mitchell carded a five-under 67 as he took a one-shot lead over compatriots Oliver Bekker and Juan Langevela.

The two other youth ICTSI bets, Miko Alejandro and Gino Bunyi, shot themselves in the foot with 82 and 85, respectively.

The Filipino golfers are on a month-long swing in South Africa as part of their buildup for future international tournaments following the completion of conciliatory talks between the National Golf Association of the Phils. (NGAP) and ICTSI.

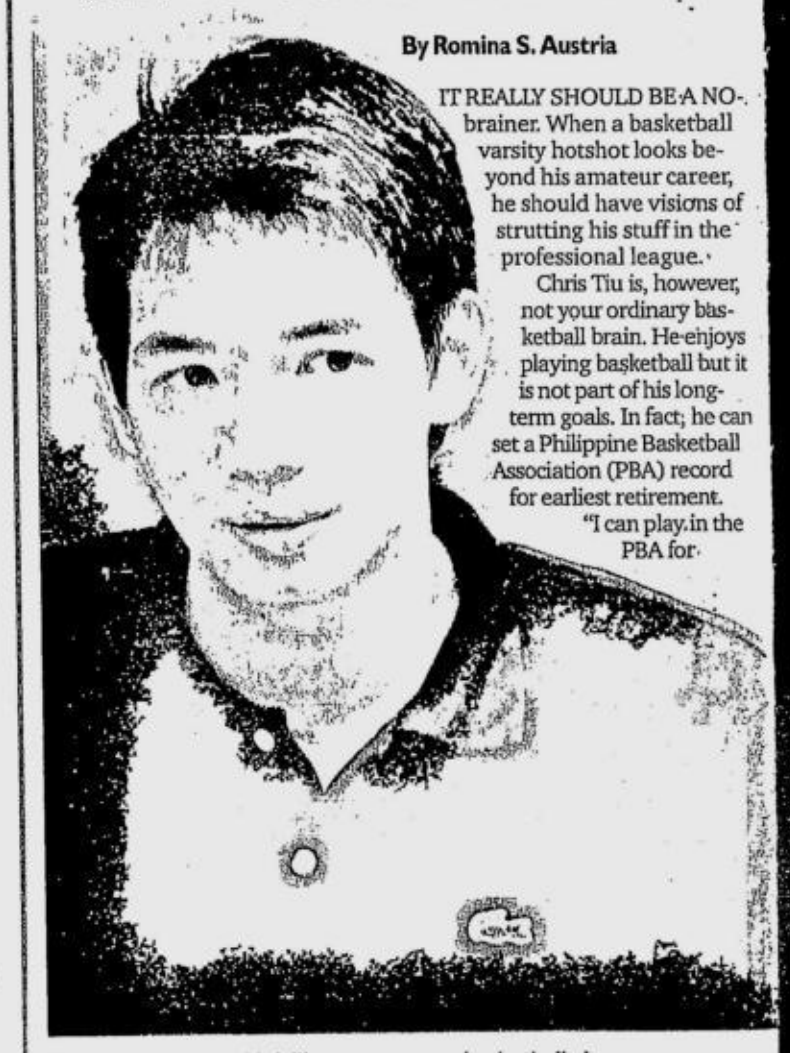
Benitez nears junior kart title

BANGKOK—THE PHILIPPINES' JAVI BENITEZ captured the Formula 125 Juniors crown recently in the Thailand Grand Prix 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship at the Saraburi Circuit here. With the victory, Benitez, a Grade 7 student of Xavier School who just turned 13, virtually bagged the Asian Junior 125 Karter of the Year plum as he now has accumulated a total of 122 points. Benitez is also eyeing the Philippine Junior Karter of the Year award of the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series.

BENITEZ

Chris sees more in

By Romina S. Austria



CHRIS Tiu doesn't think like your average basketball player. ROGER MARGALLO

IT REALLY SHOULD BE A NO-brainer. When a basketball varsity hotshot looks beyond his amateur career, he should have visions of strutting his stuff in the professional league.

Chris Tiu is, however, not your ordinary basketball brain. He enjoys playing basketball but it is not part of his long-term goals. In fact, he can set a Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) record for earliest retirement.

"I can play in the PBA for

Brightest POF stars

THE BRIGHTEST STARS FROM THE DIFFERENT legs of the Philippine Olympic Festival talent search assemble at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex for a best-of-the-best tournament dubbed the 2nd POF national championships.

The participants, pruned over 3,000 hopefuls who answered the call for future Olympic bets, take yet another step toward the 2012 London Games.

Swimmers from the Bicol-Southern Tagalog and Mindanao regions and track stars from the Visayas and the National Capital Region battle for the chance to be named to the national pool.

"The POF is a progra
the Olympics," said PO

Fil-Canadian Jami I
was the most promisin
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Henares has caugh
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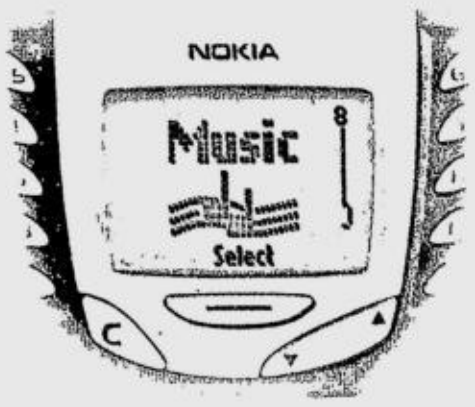

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Pang upsets Dy, seals duel vs Arevalo

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DENISE DY, THE TOP SEED AND DEFENDING champion, didn't make it to the PCA Open women's singles finals as expected.

Fifth-seed and heavy underdog Michelle Pang took advantage of Dy's hamstring injury to pull off a 6-4, 6-3 triumph yesterday and forge a title duel against three-time champ Czarina Arevalo at the steaming PCA court.

Arevalo handily finished off Bambi Zoleta, 6-3, 6-4, in the other semifinal match.

The women's final starts at 11 a.m., followed by the men's title match, featuring PJ Tierro and Johnny Arcilla at 1 p.m. today.

Tierro and Arcilla secured the men's doubles championship also yesterday after an easy 6-3, 6-3 victory over Rocky Paglalunan and Ronald Joven.

"I didn't even expect it," said the 19-year-old Pang. "I expected to play well, but not necessarily to win."

Dy, in the thick of preparations for the Southeast Asian Games, appeared trouble-free in the first set after taking a 4-3 lead.

But Pang, clad in a black, low-neckline jersey, broke Dy in the eighth game and relied on a stream of crosscourt winners to win two more games and clinch set.

Pang said she's aware of Dy's injury but added he was still surprised when the 2006 champ was often a step too late for her groundstrokes.

"I don't want to force myself because there's a lot more going for me," said Dy, who was also to compete for the doubles title late yesterday.

Showing a champion's heart, Dy raced to a 3-1 lead in the second set, chasing everything Pang threw at her.

But Pang retreated to the baseline and engaged Dy in long rallies that proved decisive. She held serve after four deuces for 2-3 and won the next four games to wrap up the win in an hour and 35 minutes.

PANG: I didn't expect to win. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Tams rout...

From page A23

"I have formally informed Mr. Gamboa of UE's decision yesterday (Friday) morning but before this he was verbally advised when news came out about the rankings," said UE executive vice president and team manager Carmelita Mateo.

"We've been playing since March; we didn't commit to join," said Pumaren of his top-seeded Archers.

The Warriors are scheduled to go up against No. 13 San Sebastian Stags on Wednesday, while the Archers are set to tackle No. 16 University of Mindanao Wildcats on Thursday.

Horse race adds new twist to world boxing convention

TO CELEBRATE THE COUNTRY'S HOSTING of the 45th World Boxing Council convention, the Manila Jockey Club hosts a benefit race dubbed the Mabuhay WBC Cup at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Cavite.

The race, which will be supported by the Games and Amusements Board and the Philippine Racing Commission, will benefit projects the WBC will launch during the convention slated Nov. 11 to 17.

"I wish to take this opportunity to thank lawyer Alfonso R. Reyno Jr., chair and CEO of MJC for hosting this event," said GAB chair Eric Buhain.

The Mabuhay WBC Cup Race, which stakes a total guaranteed prize of P500,000 and trophies for the winning owner, trainer and jockey, is set over a distance of 1,600 meters.

Seeing action for today's main event vying for the top prize of P300,000 include Irene's Fantasy, Drama Belle, Traditional, Danseuse, Vivere, Ziraz, Leave No Doubt, Great Emma, Hussy and Tellmenolies.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—La Diva (4), Princess Julianne (1), Premier Edition (3)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sir Barbaro (4), Grand Game (3), League Leader (8), Virgin Empress (5), Be Faithful (2)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Frapunbvel (2), Paramount (4), Crowning Glory (6), Snowdipped (3)
Race 4—(Tri)—Hittheroadjack (4), Weder weder Lang (2), Holy Ridge (3)
Race 5—(Super6/Qrt/Tri)—Great Emma (8), Vivere (5), Hussy (9), Drama Belle (2), Traditional (3)
Race 6—(Tri)—Mercurio (5), Fujioka/Tereshkova (2), Iron Heart (1)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—La Tienne (2), Lucky B Lucky (4), Ultra Rose (5), Mojito (3)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Gorgeous Sand (3), Stream Time (5), Iron Hand (7), Chabacana (6), Terminator (2)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—One Man's Soul (6), Que Fresca (7), Ayan Na Ko (4), Xtreme Heat (5)
Race 10—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Empire Maker (8), Just Joshua (2), Fighting Jack (6), Heart Of The Wind (1), Yo Tero (7)
Race 11—(Tri)—Dream Rose (4), Real Triumph (1), High Pocket (3)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Formidable Ella (1), Flying Jordan/Manila Magic (3), Faraguit's Order (5), Last Hazm (7)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Trouble Master (4), Music Quest (7), Cash McCall (8), She Boom (3), Deep Pockets (3), Batang Bukid (6)

life than just hoops

maybe two or three years," said Tiu during a visit to the INQUIRER office recently. "I don't see myself playing basketball as a career."

And as unusual as this may sound, the 22-year shooting guard of the Ateneo Blue Eagles wants to be an investment banker or take an active part in his family's diverse business interests, which include real estate.

Tiu is also a Sangguniang Kabataan chair in Makati City and manages a rice meal business in Ateneo.

"I may also work abroad; I also want to study Mandarin," said Tiu, who also dabbles in golf, badminton, swimming and table tennis.

When that time comes, It will not the first time that Tiu would leave basketball to pursue more intellectual interests. In 2005, as a Management Engineeering student, he traded his gym bag for suitcases full of books and flew to France. He spent one semester as an exchange student at the Lille Catholic University.

"It was definitely a difficult decision because basketball has always been a part of me," said Tiu, now taking up his second degree, Math and Financing.

But Tiu's desire to experience international education and learn more about the educational system and standards in foreign countries was stronger.

"I had to look at my priorities," said Tiu. "Studies come before basketball. I also consulted a couple of older and more knowledgeable people. It would have been foolish not to take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad."

For now, while playing basketball is still appealing for Tiu, he is part of the National pool that is training for the Thailand Southeast Asian Games slated next month.

"We're about 14 in the team fighting for spots in the final lineup," said Tiu, who was also in the 2002 RP Youth squad training pool. "We're learning the system."

Since taking up basketball at age eight, Tiu has been passionate about the sport. A pure shooter, he was high school standout at Xavier School. He wanted to play for Ateneo and made sure the Blue Eagles coaching staff would notice.

Tiu was seldom used in his first two years in the UAAP. After his stint in France, the 5'10 Tiu transformed into a more confident player. Suddenly, the opposing teams were wary of the damage he can make from the three-point zone.

But just when things started to look up for Tiu comes his pronouncement that basketball may not be his best career option.

"I want to try other things."

collide

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C chair Robert Aventajado.
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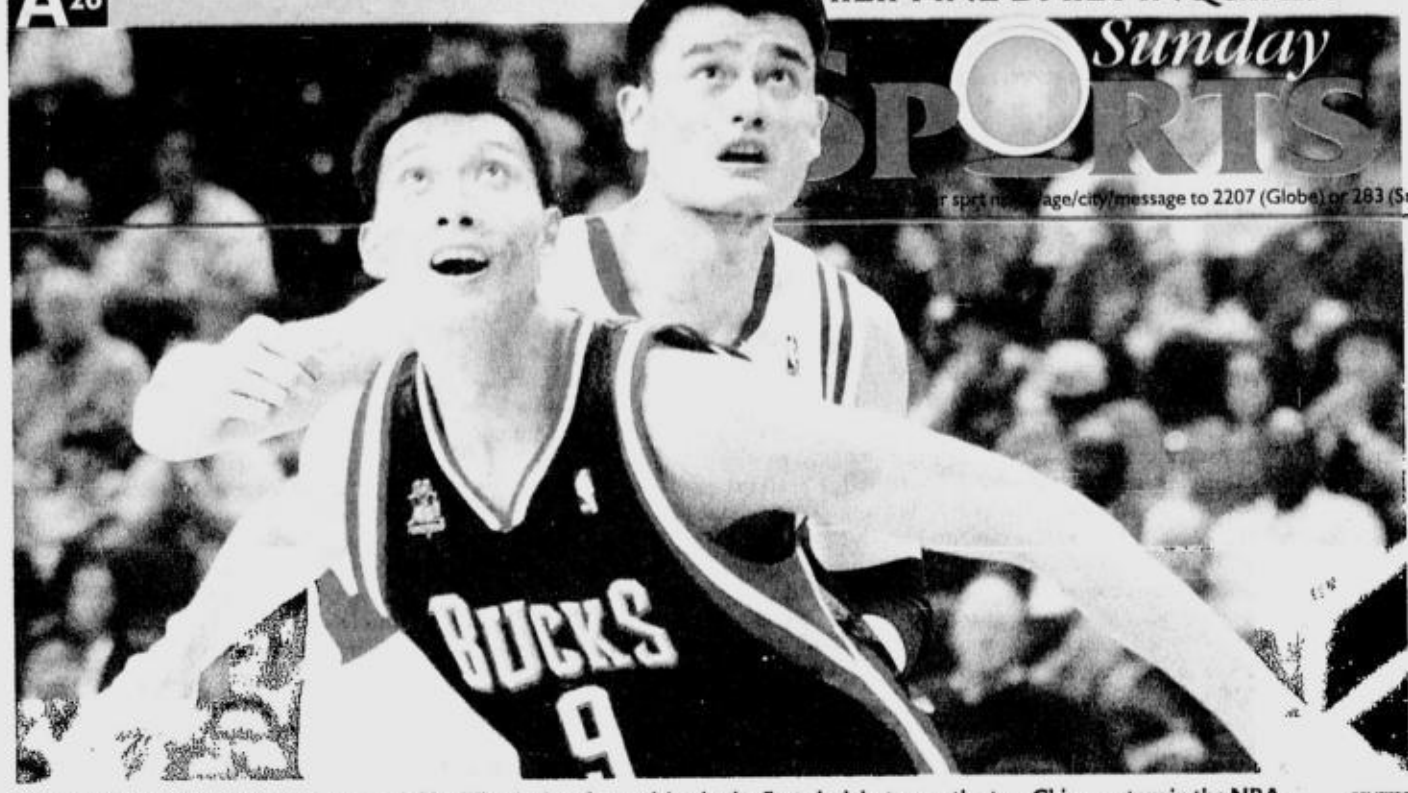

MILWAUKEE'S Yi Jianlian and Houston's Yao Ming jockey for position in the first clash between the two Chinese stars in the NBA. REUTERS

Yao upstages rookie Yi

Celtics off to best start in years; Suns shine

HOUSTON—CHINESE BASKETBALL stars Yao Ming and Yi Jianlian staged an impressive showdown Friday in the biggest NBA matchup yet involving Asian talent, with the more-experienced Yao claiming victory.

Yao scored 28 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, both game highs, to lead Houston past Milwaukee, 104-88, in the first NBA meeting between the rival Chinese stars.

A sellout crowd of 18,244 and viewership estimated at more than 200 million people in China watched Yao show the form that has made him one of the best big men in basketball while Yi demonstrated why he was such a coveted NBA newcomer.

"It's sad to think but he may be better than me before he's finished," Yao said.

Yi, a seven-foot standout, scored 19 points and grabbed nine rebounds in more than 34 minutes for the Bucks, hitting 7-of-12 from the field and 3-of-4 free throws in a losing cause.

"I was concerned only about the game. I wasn't thinking about anything outside the court," Yi said.

"It wasn't Yi versus Yao. It was the Rockets against the Bucks. I was concerned about the big game and sad about losing in the end."

Rockets superstar Tracy McGrady could sense Yi's early struggles as well but can also see greatness in his future.

"He was pretty good. Obviously he has a tremendous upside," McGrady said. "Maybe he had a little bit of the jitters. But he's an athlete. For a guy to be 7-foot and with ball-handling skills and moves like that really shows you something. He's a player and his basketball IQ is going to grow."

In Miami, Steve Nash scored 11 straight points in the fourth quarter and finished with 30 to go with eight assists, and the Phoenix Suns added to Miami's season-opening misery by rallying past the Heat, 106-101.

In Boston, Kevin Garnett had 27 points and 19 rebounds, Paul Pierce scored 23 and the Celtics got their third blowout win of a season, 106-83 over the Atlanta Hawks, that is the Celtics' best start in 20 years.

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 30 points and Lamar Odom had 18 points and 10 rebounds in his season debut Friday night to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 107-93 victory over the winless Minnesota Timberwolves.

In other games it was Spurs 97, Hornets 85; Magic 112, Knicks 102; Nuggets 118, Wizards 92; Raptors 105, 76ers 103; Bobcats 96, Pacers 87; Pistons 103, Clippers 79. *AFP, AP*

Miñoza slips back further with a 75; Mickelson leads

SHANGHAI—FRANKIE MIÑOZA stumbled on the back nine to finish with a three-over-par 75 Friday and fell out of the top 10 after the third round of the HSBC Champions on Saturday.

After shooting 33s on the last nine holes in the first two rounds, the Filipino No. 1 shotmaker limped home this time with a four-over-par 40 after hitting the turn at one-under 35.

Miñoza, who started the day only six shots off the pace, found himself 12 strokes behind new leader Phil Mickelson, who now has a 214 total like South African stars Retief Goosen (71) and Ernie Els (70).

Miñoza's troubles were nothing compared with compatriot Juvic Pagunsan, who struggled with an 82 and stood dead last at 67th place with a 231 total.

Mickelson broke away from the elite field after a 68 as the three-time major winner bucked the windy conditions at the Sheshan International Golf Club with six birdies against two bogeys for a 54-hole total of 202.

Englishman Ross Fisher blasted a similar score to take second position two strokes behind Mickelson while compatriot Paul Casey rose up to lone third spot after a strong 66 in the $5 million event.

Overnight leader Kevin Stadler slipped to fourth place at 206 after a 73 while South African Andrew McLardy and Fijian ace Vijay Singh were both even-par for the day in joint fifth place at 209.

Richard Sterne of South Africa and Irishman Padraig Harrington shot matching 69s also in tied fifth position alongside defending champion Yang Yong-eun of Korea who posted a 70 seven strokes behind the leader.

Competing in his first ever HSBC Champions, Mickelson, with 32 titles on the US PGA Tour, was one under after nine holes as he battled the tricky conditions. *Asian Tour News*

Eagles square golf series vs Archers

THE GOLF SHOWDOWN between rival schools Ateneo and La Salle kicks off next month, sealed with a memorandum of agreement signed by both schools and hosts Belle Corporation and Tagaytay Highlands. The agreement's signatories are: (from left) Andy Dumlao of Ateneo, DLSAA golf club chair Jose Tanjuatco, Tagaytay Highlands general manager Jerry Tiu, Belle Corporation vice chairman Willie Ocier, Ateneo Golf president Wigberto Clavecilla and Alfredo Mendoza, DLSAA Golf Club president and director.

ATENEO EVENED UP MATTERS with La Salle by taking the second leg of the National Intercollegiate Golf 2007 recently at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

Ateneo and La Salle actually forged a rare tie after the 36-hole regulation play but Gab Atienza's 81 proved crucial for the Eagles as the rule for breaking a tie counts the fourth score of the team.

Ateneo wound up with a 549 total with Don Padilla counting for both days with his 81-74, Ayon Sanchez doing 82-76 and Ramon Garcia contributing a 77 on the second day.

Justin Limjap was solid with his rounds of 74-77 and so was Charles Hong (81-72) but La Salle lost out in the third and fourth players.

The Philippine Golf Foundation is the main backer of the Intercollegiate wars in cooperation with Malarayat and the other host venues, Baliwag Transit which is the official transport company and Lynx/Golfers Network Inc., the equipment and apparel sponsor.

Limjap took the individual title, beating In Jae Kim of University of the East and teammate Hong by two.

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DEMAND for the product is fueled by its comfortable and "fun footwear" appeal.

Foam clogs maker HoleyS all set to challenge popular market leader

By Daxim L. Lucas

HOW DOES A COMPANY make inroads in a market that is thoroughly dominated by by a larger, fancier, more established and more popular rival?

Normally, marketing gurus would advise upstart firms against taking on their larger competitors head on. However, in the case of casual footwear maker Holey Soles, the company is bent to jumping into the market with both feet.

To know what Holey Soles is all about, it is impossible not to discuss the history of the market leader in its category, Crocs.

The history of both firms started at the same time in Quebec, Canada, in a factory named Foam Creation. Crocs later on bought out the factory, giving them a dominant market share and allowing them to position themselves as the pioneer in the foam footwear business.

HoleyS—as the brand is known—fell to a distant second to Crocs. But it is still a success story.

> It's going to be tough upward climb, but the firm is determined

The company's headquarters in Vancouver, Canada, started as a small home business based on sensibility. Its early efforts were focused on good service to retail outlets in the province of British Columbia.

The highly adaptable shoe gained traction among boaters and gardeners. Demand was eventually fueled by the clogs' appeal to anyone wanting comfortable and "fun footwear."

All this gave HoleyS local distributor—Gallop Ventures Inc.—the courage to challenge the dominant market player for a slice of the growing pie for casual footwear.

Company officials estimate the existing sales for foam footwear clogs go as high as P1 million a week per outlet, owing to the popularity of the product.

During peak selling periods, sales of foam clogs reach P350,000 per shop per day, according to the company's estimates.

Globally, the market for foam clogs has grown to $1 billion from nothing over the last five years, and HoleyS is eager to cash

FOAM/ B4

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■ Women leaders, unite! B6

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Philam Plans launches five new participating forfeit-free products

PHILAM PLANS INC, THE COUNTRY'S leading pre-need company providing pension, education and life plans continues to change the face of the pre-need industry with its present launch of five new breakthrough products called Aspire, Prodigy, Virtue, Dignity and Vantage.

Aspire is a flexible all-around savings and income-generating product that planholders can use to save for a dream vacation, a dream car, a retirement fund, an emergency fund or as seed money to start-up a business. Prodigy is the total and flexible education fund that planholders have been waiting for. Both Virtue and Dignity are flexible life plans. Virtue provides living benefits through annual dividends and cash bonuses every five years, while Dignity allows for an increase in memorial service benefits. Vantage is a Group Pension product that offers liquidity and a potential for higher returns.

All these products provide flexibility in receiving benefits. Planholders no longer need to wait until maturity to receive their benefits, which planholders may receive in the form of dividends as early as the second year and every year thereafter.

Since these are "participating" products, Aspire, Prodigy, Virtue, Dignity and Vantage also have the potential to earn more by allowing planholders to benefit from the investment environment and the investment expertise of Philam Plans. Furthermore, just like the iPLAN Product which Philam Plans launched earlier this year, these five products are all forfeit-free - that is, planholders will not lose their cash value due to lapse or cancellation. The products' Cash Saver feature will secure the cash value of the plan, enabling the planholder to receive a maturity amount, even if that planholder cannot finish making payments. Most of all, these products are guaranteed by the strength and stability of Philam Plans, a member company of American International Group Inc (AIG).

"We continue to listen to the ever-changing needs of our planholders and constantly develop value-added products to address them," said Philam Plans president and CEO Jack I. Howell. "Aspire, Prodigy, Virtue, Dignity and Vantage are the latest additions to our evolving product portfolio which is now more attuned to current market conditions and to our customers' needs. They will ensure that Philam Plans continues to be at the forefront in changing the face of the pre-need industry."

Philam Plans Inc is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife), the country's largest and most diversified insurance company and a member company of American International Group, Inc. (AIG), the leading international insurance organization with operations in more than 130 countries and jurisdictions. Philam Plans has substantial financial capabilities and holds a huge, fast growing and liquid trust fund, which was P29.1 billion as of December 2006. The majority of the Trust Fund is secured in cash, cash equivalents as well as liquid assets, such as government securities.

The company's capitalization stands at P700 million in paid-up capital, which is seven times larger than the minimum SEC requirement. In a recent statement, the SEC publicly cited that "Philam Plans' trust fund has sufficient assets that can be liquefied to cover availments as they fall due." The company currently has over 300,000 plans in force.

For more information, interested parties may call the Philam Hotline at (02) 528-5200.

METROBANK TAPS REUTERS

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank), the country's largest bank in assets, recently partnered with Reuters to establish a scalable market risk management infrastructure which will enable the Bank to meet its requirements under the Basel II program. Reuters will provide a comprehensive solution through its Enterprise-wide Risk Management System, the Kondor Global Risk. Metrobank tapped Reuters' assistance because of their proven track record in providing risk management solutions to financial institutions. Sealing the agreement with a handshake are Metrobank senior vice president Bernardito Lapuz and Reuters Trade and Risk Management (Asia) head John Palmiero. With them are Metrobank executive vice president Fernand Tansingco (left) and Reuters business development manager for Asia Keith Poole.

CIELO SALON OPENS AT THE COLUMNS

From left: owner and managing director Cielo Petines, Tessa Prieto-Valdez and Louie Ysmael recently opened Cielo, a posh salon situated at the ground floor of The Columns, corner of Ayala Avenue and Buendia, Makati City. Petines graduated with a degree in Cosmetology at the Center for Aesthetic Studies (CAS), a school that works closely with the Franck Provost salon. Cielo is also the first salon in the country that offers a wi-fi zone area for the fashionable on-the-go people. Cielo is located at the ground floor of Tower 1 of The Columns, 6821 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. For inquiries, just call 901-3606.

SEAIR IS NOEL BAZAAR'S OFFICIAL AIRLINE

For the 2nd straight year, the Noel Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Shopping Expo will be given a lift by Seair in holding the biggest shopping extravaganza this year. Aside from featuring the best finds from over 400 vendors to kick off the holiday shopping season, the Noel Bazaar has been known to give shoppers and the whole family a memorable treat with entertainment numbers, fashion shows, cooking demonstrations, and this year's special highlight - performances by the Up With People Int'l Cast. Shown signing the MOA are Seair VP for commercial affairs Patrick T. Tan and Noel Bazaar project director Maryrose G. Bautista. Seair's cheapest flights will be even more affordable for bookings made during the Noel Bazaar Series. The bazaar is scheduled on Nov. 21-25, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. For inquiries call Cut Unlimited at 687-0654, 687-0604 or e-mail noelbazaars@gmail.com.

11TH URCC FIGHT EVENT FROM YOSHINOYA

The URCC University Challenge presented by Yoshinoya kicked off with the gyudon eating challenge before the main mixed martial arts events started, held at the Glorietta 3 Park last Sept. 29. The event was participated in by amateur fighters from various universities.

FTE WITH MICROBAN PRODUCT LAUNCHING

After several months of preparation, Wierig Industrial Products Inc recently launched FTE with Microban, the first anti-bacterial Floor Technology Enhancement in the Philippines. It is an anti-bacterial floor coating that inhibits the growth of moulds, mildew and other bacteria. The successful event was held last Oct. 24, at The Peninsula Manila, Makati City where a number of participants from pharmaceutical, hospitals, industrial, food processing companies and food chains had attended. Shown are Lawrence Larkins and Tom Ellefsen, during the unveiling of Floor Technology Enhancement with Microban.

DHL CHAIR WINS OUTSTANDING MANILAN AWARD

Rod Feliciano, chairman of the board of DHL Express Philippines, was presented the Outstanding Manilan Award during the Araw ng Maynila testimonial dinner and award ceremonies for outstanding Manilans for 2007, held at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. Feliciano was commended for his accomplishments and noteworthy contribution in the field of service enterprise through his post at DHL Express Philippines, the world's leading express and logistics company. The Outstanding Manilan awards are given annually to ten individuals born, raised or educated in the city of Manila. The nominees should directly contribute to the progress and development of the metropolis through their profession or vocations.

ASIATRUST BANK HOLDS TAX BRIEFING FOR CLIENTS

Asiatrust Bank (ATB), in line with its efforts to provide value-added services to its SME clients that would help them in their businesses, recently partnered up with NGO and tax experts Auditor ng Bayan to hold a tax briefing for its valued clients. Shown in photo at the Richmonde Hotel, Ortigas Center where the briefing was held are (from left): ATB SVP-retail lending sector Edgar de Asis, ATB VP-real estate sector Emerson Sta. Ana, ATB AVP-corpcomm and marketing Marla Vital, ATB product management head Mylene Luna, Auditor ng Bayam VP and resource speaker Diann Balisa and ATB account officer Ardian Garcia. Asiatrust Bank will soon be celebrating its 47th Year of Working for the Entrepreneur.

TRANSPROCURE, CMA CONTIKI INK PARTNERSHIP

TransProcure, a leading global procurement solutions and services company headquartered in the Philippines and CMA Contiki, a leading contracts management software provider based in Oslo, Norway sign a partnership agreement for TransProcure to be the master reseller, implementation and support provider for Asia-Pacific region. The agreement was signed Oct. 18 at the New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati City, Philippines. Shown in photo signing are Charlie Villasenor, TransProcure president and CEO and Tom Aas Inge, CMA Contiki CEO together with executives of both companies.

BITS Clips

9th Crystal Tee Invitational Golf Tournament at Puerto Azul

AN INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT WAS recently held at Puerto Azul's 18 - hole championship course designed by the legendary Gary Player. It was attended by 72 participants, using a Stableford Tournament Format. Ceremonial Tee-Off at hole #10 was headed by the club's general manager Lester Belgera, joined by one of their board of directors Rody Narvaez, member Ulrich Willimann and guest lawyer Lorie Ibarreta. Lunch Awarding Ceremony followed at Gloria Maris Ballroom of the Clubhouse. Twelve winners were awarded; men's division Rody Narvaez and Col. June Manaoag (Champion Team), Willie Soberano and engineer Guillermo Telmo (1st Runner-Up Team) and Ulrich Willimann and Vernon Harris (2nd Runner - Up Team) for ladies division - lawyer Lorie Ibarreta and Mrs Kim Kum Tae (Champion Team) and Mrs Jang Pil Soo and Ms Kim Hee Sook (1st Runner-Up Team). For Guests Division (Individual Category) Mr Jae Young You (champion), Mr Joel Jose (1st Runner-Up) and Mr Lee Woo Sik (2nd Runner-Up). Special Awards went to: Mr Jae Young Yoo (Longest Drive at Hole #15), Col. June Manaoag (Nearest to the Pin at Hole #11), Mr Roger De Leon (Most Accurate Drive at Hole #4), lawyer Lorie Ibarreta and Mrs Kim Kum Tae (Best Dressed Team) and Mr Max Panagniban and Mr Roger De Leon (Early Bird). The said tournament was supported by the following sponsors: Hyundai Dasmariñas Cavite, Coca Cola Bottlers Phils Inc, Fridays Boracay, Grand Boulevard Hotel, Mannlich Authentic Chinese Restaurant, NAM's Golf Corp, PMG Golf & Leisure Inc, Director Martin Chan, Mayor Conrado Lindo, Maragondon Minimart, Velamart, Ricky Manalo Mobile Sound System, lawyer Lorie Ibarreta, Naic Doctors Hospital, Alliance Technologies Corp, Banco De Ternate and Banco Maragondon.

Healing through sounds

REGINA ROSARII CENTER FOR CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER INVITES YOU to a Seminar on Inner Healing Through Contemplative Prayer (Healing through sounds), Nov. 17 to 18, 8 to 4:30 p.m. Thomas Aquinas Research Complex (TARC) Auditorium, University of Sto. Tomas (UST), España, Metro Manila. The Inner Healing Seminar will focus on contemplation as an avenue for the body to learn how to listen to sounds that can soothe and still our tired spirits. In time, contemplative prayer can bring inner healing that can bring deeper awareness, acceptance and attention. Let vibrations and the healing power of sound heal you. Tickets available for P1,000 at 'D Regina 70 Scout Fernandez St., Barangay Laging Handa, QC, and UST TARC lobby. Reservation: 372-5327/0919-2694286/0928-7545475. Participants please bring at least one musical instrument (shaker, bell, drum, tambourine, flute etc).

PSBank, Balikatan enter into loan portfolio sale

IN A RECENT LANDMARK TRANSACTION, BALIKATAN HOUSING FINANCE Inc (Balikatan) sold the first of many tranches of performing residential mortgage loans to Philippine Savings Bank (PSBank). PSBank successfully bid for 357 residential mortgage accounts with an aggregate outstanding balance of P127 million through a competitive and private auction held in April this year. PSBank is the country's second largest thrift bank and has 162 branches nationwide. The bank has been at the forefront of various product marketing campaigns and process improvements in consumer loans, which has led to its strong competitive position in the thrift bank industry. Balikatan holds a portfolio of non-performing loans acquired from the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp (NHMFC). These loans were originated through the government's development of affordable housing mortgages under its Unified Home Lending Program in the 1980s. The sale to PSBank reflects Balikatan's successful work-out efforts through its service provider Bahay Financial Services Inc or BFS Inc. BFS Inc, which provides customized asset management services for Balikatan and the affordable housing sector, facilitated the auction and sale to PSBank. Upon approval by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, PSBank will utilize BFS in the management of its newly-acquired portfolio.

Study and Earn in the USA seminar set

THE STUDY AND EARN IN THE USA SEMINAR WILL BE HELD NOV. 13 AND 14, at the Commercial Section of the US Embassy is a major attraction for Philippine students. Graduate and MBA students can work as part of their course and can earn nearly enough to cover the cost of their studies. This concept of learning through real life training in the workplace has always been one of the most effective and attractive methods of learning. Called "cooperative education" in the USA, this method has long been practiced with graduate students and is one of the key features to be presented during the seminar. Seven colleges and universities from California, Utah, Pennsylvania, Washington State, New York State and Virginia will be showcasing their range of undergraduate degrees, and three of them will have Cooperative Education Graduate programs and MBA's available for interested students. Hosted by International Education Specialists at the Commercial Section of the US Embassy, the Study and Earn in the USA seminar is one of a series of presentations organized by Inter-Ed with the embassy, for students wanting to study in the USA. The Commerce Section of the US Embassy is located at 25/F Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. The seminar is free and is open to anybody who wants to study undergraduate or graduate courses in the US. Pre-registration before Nov. 13 is essential and must be done by calling Inter-Ed on 819-1001/02 or e-mailing them on intl_edu_specialists@pldtdsl.net giving your full name, age, address, contact numbers, and school/college attended.

COLLEZIONE-C2 OPENS 19TH BRANCH AT TRINOMA

The ever popular all-Filipino, high quality and stylish clothes from Collezione-C2 opened its latest branch at the newest mall in Quezon City, Ayala Malls' Trinoma. The clean-cut, modern and straightforward boutique welcomed its loyal as well as its new customers last Aug. 1 with opening ceremonies. With the new apparel exclusively designed by Rhett Eala (shown in photo), Collezione-C2 is celebrating their 34th year with the opening of their TriNoma branch and the renovation of existing boutiques all across the country. Evoking the feel of the country club lifestyle, which is fresh, preppy and stylish - more and more young consumers understand why the brand is a retro-classic brand in the Philippines. The smart, casual, affordable and easy fit clothes have made Collezione-C2 a must have for every Filipino.

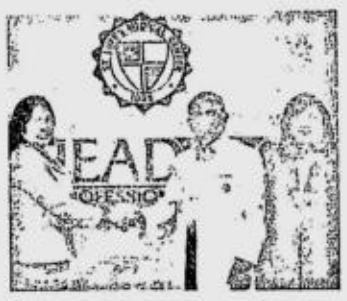
KILLERSPIN TAPS US CARRANZ LLC

Killerspin made US Carranz LLC an exclusive distributor of table tennis products in the Philippines last Sept. 15 at Chicago. Present during the meeting were Walter Atonson (US Carranz LLC), Simon Chong (Killerspin sales executive), Michael Lamargo (Killerspin marketing director), Rob Sheets (VP International Sales Brunswick), Amar Malik (Killerspin) and Alvin Carranza (US Carranz LLC CEO).

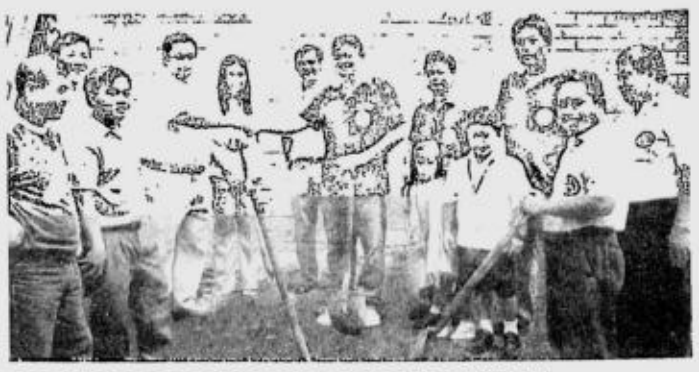
OPPORTUNITIES FOR UP ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The government-hosted Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) and the University of the Philippines (UP) signed a consolidated hosting agreement, which provides a regular number of professional chairs to UPLB constituents, graduate scholarships and assistantships, and other academic and research undertakings to current UPLB faculty members and other employees. Shown in photo are (from left) Dr. Gil Saguiguit Jr, Searca deputy director; Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, Searca director; Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman, UP president; and Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, UPLB chancellor.

AHEADPRO INKS PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. LUKE'S



Ahead Professional Network (AheadPro) recently forged a partnership with St. Luke's Medical Center to provide an exclusive Business Communications Skills Program for its managers. Signatories were Ahead president, Rossana L. Llenado; SLMC SVP for medical affairs, Joven R. Cuanang, MD, signing for SLMC president and CEO, Jose F.G. Ledesma; and VP for human resources division, Fe Corazon B. Ramos-Muit.



GROUNDBREAKING IN BRGY MAGUIKAY

The Aboitiz Group Foundation has formally started work on a two-storey groundwork project with one classroom and a health center in Brgy. Maguikay, Mandaue City. The day care center will benefit over 100 students. The total project cost is P840,000, 70 percent of which is Agfi's share. The budget is exclusive of tables, chairs, signages and interior murals which will be shouldered by Agfi. Target date for completion is first week of December. In photo (from left) are: Maguikay Councilors Edgar Cabahug, Jesusilo Ceniza and John Vicor Omolon, Agfi managing trustee Sonny Carpio, daycare teacher Queenie Jean Retuya, Agfi project officer Vincent Salera, Maguikay Brgy. Capt Elstone Dabon, Councilors Francis Tan, day care pupils, and Councilors William Cortes, Rosalito Simbajon, and Fernando Go.

Cordillerans' edge in English good for Tesol

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE ability of Cordillerans to express themselves more fluently in English than in the national language makes them competitive in the growing demand for skilled English speakers, experts of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (Tesol) said.

This augurs well for the government's thrust to retool English teachers, speakers and communication facilitators in a bid to arrest the deterioration in the use of the language, said Keith Wright, Australian International Language Academy (Aila) director.

Though sometimes Cordillerans speak English with a regional accent, Wright said they could respond well to the increasing international market for an English-speaking labor force.

"The demand for English teachers and trainors worldwide has become phenomenal," Wright said.

"Today's business, travel, tourism, media and the academe are shifting the priorities of their hiring from plain English course graduates to Tesol-trained and skilled applicants," he added.

Certification

Wright said he saw no problem for Cordillerans harnessing their speaking potentials under Tesol.

Tesol is an internationally recognized qualification and certification program for interested applicants who hail from countries whose native language is not English.

The Benguet State University (BSU) recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Aila and the Southern Cross International Learning Institute (Scili), an accredited Tesol provider, to make BSU a provider of Tesol courses accredited by the Commonwealth of Australia.

Dr. Carmel Thompson, Scili director, said the institute chose BSU as Scili coordinator in the country because of its reputation of academic excellence.

"We are glad to have found a partner in BSU in our effort to make our English speaking internationally recognized," Thompson said.

Dr. Rogelio Colting, BSU president, welcomed the partnership.

"We are not only striving to become an organic agriculture university. The Tesol program provided a new dimension in BSU's bid to become a premier state university in Southeast Asia," he said.

Value-added

Even international companies on local shores have taken notice of Tesol graduates.

Razzel Remiendo, a former call center executive and English program consultant, said the international business outsourcing industry knows the value of employing Tesol-trained English speakers.

"Definitely, call centers, medical transcription and animation companies would become more efficient with Tesol-trained English workers who would man their customers' inquiries," said Remiendo, past language program head of the Monticello International College in Baguio City.

> The demand for English teachers and trainors worldwide has become phenomenal

Plus factor

Cynthia Maslian, ClientLogic's external relationship and sourcing manager, said the influx of applicants from the Cordillera is the least of the company's worry.

"It is actually even a plus factor because they are more at ease and at home speaking the English language," she said.

Maslian said ClientLogic has more than 2,000 employees and 60 to 70 percent of them are from the Cordillera.

Maslian and Remiendo were two of the 19 participants who finished a 10-day special course on Tesol given by Aila, Scili and BSU from Oct. 22-31.

"The special course would be the first and the last we will give in the Philippines since the regular course must be finished from two to three months," Wright said.

Wright, who supervised the course with Thompson, said the course was special since it chose only 19 of 240 applicants in the country.

He said the graduates were given a compliance certificate of level four, the highest recognized Tesol certificate, which actually made the graduates both teachers and trainors.

Each of the participants were required to pay a course fee of $600 (P26,568).

But the participants said the fee was worth it since they learned a lot from the training.

Anna Liza Wakat and Cynthia Lobiton, BSU English teachers, said they learned a lot in terms of new methodologies in teaching English and new approaches on how to speak the language.

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University of the East	2.74km
CEU and San Beda (via LRT)	2.80km
University of Santo Tomas	2.80km
Malacañang	3.11km
FEU (via LRT)	3.13km
PSBA Manila (via LRT)	3.16km
St. Jude	3.45km
Divisoria (via LRT)	4.62km
Cubao (via LRT)	4.83km
PSBA Q.C.	7.20km
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2007 PDA Annual Convention & 3rd Course on Diabetes & Vascular Disease
Century Park Hotel
November 20 - 23
PSEM Philippine Society of Endocrinology & Metabolism
Go Bike Pilipinas 2007
One Esplanade SM MOA, Metro Manila
Lagoon, Bacolod, Capitol, Cagayan de Oro
November 11, 6:00 am
Hawak Kamay Diabetes Warrior Program
Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas
November 12, 8:00 am
ISDF UERMMMC - Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc.
Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics
14th Philippine Diabetes Congress
Pasig-Rizal High School Gymnasium, Pasig
November 18, 7:00 am
PCDEF Philippine Center for Diabetes Education Foundation, Inc.
The Diabetes Center
National Assembly of Diabetes Educators 2007
Century Park Hotel
November 19, 8:00 am
world diabetes day
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Emotion plus logic

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

AS A REFEREE IN THE NATIONAL Football League for 31 years, Jim Tunney had myriad opportunities to witness great teams in action. He officiated at no less than 29 postseason games (an NFL record), including 10 Championships and three Super Bowls.

Now a respected motivational speaker, Tunney uses what he observed on the football field to help organizations and corporations build winning teams. For example, he believes that clearly defined goals are a key component to team success—both on and off the field.

"If employees don't understand their company's goals and its game plan, these goals won't be achieved," he says. "Football doesn't make this mistake. Its goals are always clearly defined. At the end of the field is a goal line. Why do we call it a goal line? Because 11 people on the offensive team huddle for a single purpose—to move the ball across it."

From a business perspective, not all goals are quite so obvious—or so clear-cut in attainability. But whether you're talking about players in uniform or team members at the office, one thing is certain: Vision determines the direction of the team.

When it comes to casting a compelling vision, I believe that there are two critical elements: Emotional and logical transference. This is where many leaders go wrong. Some are great at explaining their vision logically, but they lack the emotion necessary to carry it forward. Others are very emotional when casting a vision, but they lack the logic to sustain it.

If you want to cast a vision that will send your team in the right direction for the long haul, you must do it with logic and emotion. It's not an either/or situation. You must have both.

To transfer a vision emotionally, five elements are needed:

1. **Credibility.** This is the most important ingredient for successful emotional transference. The person casting the vision absolutely must have integrity. His team must know—beyond a shadow of a doubt—that he walks the walk and talks the talk.

2. **Passion.** It's very difficult to pass a vision on to someone else if you don't believe in it yourself. Half-hearted vision-casting simply doesn't work.

3. **Relationships.** The closer a leader is to the members of her team, the quicker they'll buy in to her vision.

4. **Timing.** There's a right time and a wrong time to cast a vision. A good vision presented at the wrong time will fail.

5. **Felt need.** It's hard for people to catch a vision when they don't feel the goal is necessary.

On the other hand, to transfer a vision logically, these seven components are necessary:

1. **A realistic understanding of the situation today.** If you're not realistic about where you are today, people will know that you don't have a clue about tomorrow. Leaders often make the mistake of trying to cast a vision for the future because they're struggling now. In other words, they use the vision to cover up their existing problems. But when you cast a vision, your people must know that you understand your current situation. Otherwise, they'll simply roll their eyes and think, "If he isn't realistic about where we are right now, how can he ever be realistic about where we want to go?"

2. **An experienced team.** It's tough to keep a vision alive without seasoned players who comprehend why it's important to the success of your organization.

3. **A sound strategy.** The step-by-step process of how you're going to achieve your vision must be well-reasoned and watertight; otherwise it will fall apart.

4. **Acceptance of responsibility by the leaders.** The success of a vision nearly always is based upon the buy-in of the leaders who are willing to sign their names to the bottom line number, whatever it is. Don't even attempt to cast a vision until your leaders are ready to put their names by the bottom line.

5. **The celebration and communication of each victory.** Such recognition provides an infusion of enthusiasm and gives your people something concrete to hold on to as they continue to move toward the ultimate goal of fulfilling the vision.

6. **Evaluation and communication for each defeat.** Be as open about explaining the defeats as you are about celebrating the victories. After each setback, tell your team, "Here's what we did wrong; here's why we did not accomplish what we need to."

7. **Time.** This is interesting, isn't it? To emotionally transfer a vision, you need proper timing. To logically transfer it, you just need time.

What happens when emotion joins logic in the transference of a vision? People unite around the goal and start working to achieve it because they believe in what they're doing and they understand why they're doing it.

That's how teams win—both on and off the field.

(For information on John Maxwell 's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at bingericta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Bing Ericta. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!)

PROMINENCE II CLUBHOUSE OPENING

Brentville International recently staged "A Night of Musical Rhapsody" at the Prominence II Clubhouse, Brentville International, Biñan, Laguna. The event was held to thank the homeowners for building their homes within the exclusive gates of Brentville. Some of the attendees are (from left) Andrew L. Gotianun Sr., Mercedes T. Gotianun, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Josephine G. Yap, Joseph M. Yap and JP Yap. ROGER MARGALLO

Foam clogs maker HoleyS all set ...

From page B1

in on its co-pioneer status with Crocs.

The product's popularity stems from its light weight, which at 5 to 6 ounces is three to four times lighter than the lightest shoes or sandals on the market. It is so light that it floats on water.

The clogs are also made of foam that molds itself according to the shape of the wearer's feet.

But how does the company intend to ease the market leader's stranglehold on the market?

Officials of its local distribution firm are constrained from speaking on the record because of marketing agreements with other brands they carry, but say that the main attraction of their product is durability and lightweight design.

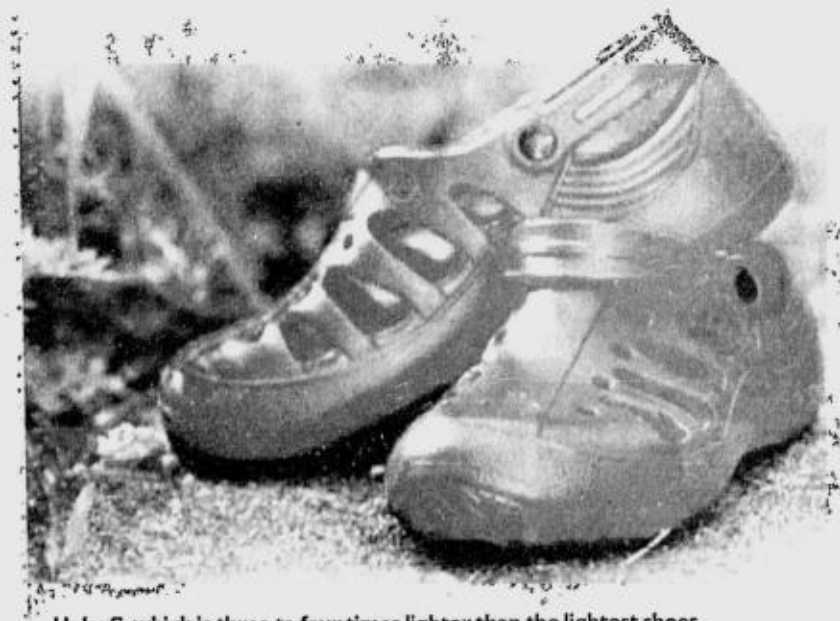
HoleyS is also taking the "innovation approach" to differentiate it from its competitor.

In an earlier interview, HoleyS president and CEO Joyce Groote stressed that the main differentiator of the company are the denser rubber soles of the sandals which make them more durable and safer to wear.

"If you take a look that base here it's all a single molded shoe and what we've done is that we've moved them to a shoe that now has rubber on the bottom and what that rubber does that that it's more anti-slip," she said.

"You can wear them in wet environments and they don't slip, they have traction. Not only that, you also get increased longevity in the shoe itself. So if you take look at our shoes it has that feature on the bottom."

In business, however, time is of the essence, and HoleyS knows that it must move fast if it is to make a dent in its rival's market share.



HoleyS, which is three to four times lighter than the lightest shoes or sandals on the market, can even float on water

HoleyS would be introduced in the market next week, initially through distribution agreements with sports outlets, in time for the Christmas shopping season.

HoleyS' local distributor says the company is taking the "number two approach" for now.

"We're glad we're number two because we want to work harder," the official said.

HoleyS is hoping that the market will latch on to their innovative product, given its similar pricing strategy with the market leader (the foam clogs are priced between P1,400 to P2,900 per pair).

"Same price, better quality," as the company's local distributor put it, adding that they welcomed the comparison to Crocs. "One look at the products and you will immediately know the difference."

One look at the industry leader's dominance, however, will also reveal that HoleyS is facing a tough upward climb.

Quezon farmers, entrepreneurs sell more by going online

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor, UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

IN QUEZON PROVINCE, THE farmers and entrepreneurs have begun selling their produce and goods in the Internet. They do this through the province's "E-commerce for Farmers" project.

Small and medium businesses post their "help wanted" ads free of charge at the "Expertise Exchange." Needless to say, people who are looking for jobs regularly log on to the site, too.

Quezon residents get to use a free online directory of businesses and services. This is the "Business Central."

Government employees in Lucena purchase their grocery online as well. They log online and place their orders in minutes and before they go home at 5 p.m., the goods would have been delivered. Thanks to the "Lucena Grocery Online."

> Farmers now meet buyers to negotiate terms without having to leave their homes or farms

The Quezon E-Commerce project, implemented by the Quezon E-commerce Services Office (Queso), was launched in September 2005 and in a year has trained over 300 farmers and traders and small enterprises in various municipalities of the province to go and sell online.

With the help of Ateneo de Manila's 4F group, the project has put in place a Web system and website (www.quezon.gov.ph) which provides farmers free space for posting their products, even as Queso monitors transactions that take place online and keeps buyer records and data.

Through Internet and computer operation and application training conducted by Queso, farmers have also learned to connect with buyers and prospective buyers in other e-commerce websites.

Farmers now meet with their buyers in virtual meeting places to negotiate terms, without having to leave their homes or farms. Online, they discuss contract terms, price, quantity, inspection and delivery conditions, and payment schedules. Contracts are then closed and sales consummated through affiliated banks.

Farmers confirm they have been able to find new business partners by going online. They also obtain the best price for their commodities, generate savings from lower marketing and handling costs, and generally claim for themselves a bigger slice of the economic pie. This has enabled them not only to generate more sales for themselves but more revenues for the province.

Queso has been promoting the E-commerce for Farmers through road shows in Quezon's various municipalities.

In these road shows, farmers find out they do not necessarily need Internet access to go e-commerce. They can and have used their mobile phones to communicate their terms to the remote buyers, through SMS or text messages.

They can even write down their registration and product postings on paper and wait for the assigned Queso e-commerce coordinators to collect them.

Today, farmers happily confirm they receive at least 10 calls a day from buyers or prospective buyers.

"This is unusual for farmers who used to be so uncertain as to who to sell to next or at what price or under what payment schedule," according to Oscar Camarra Jr., who works with the Information Management Unit of the provincial government of Quezon.

The project also provides training programs related to farming and livelihood projects and relevant marketing and technology information.

Camarra, writing in a casebook on "Philippine Experiences on Information and Communication Technology for Development" published by the Department of Science and Technology and the International Development Research Center, Canada, shares these experiences in helping Quezon entrepreneurs make business online.

Camarra also discusses some of the problems Queso has faced in implementing the project: farmers' limited access to information technology, volatility of prices of produce, danger of hacking or cracking and other unauthorized access to the Web system, security of financial transaction, non-competitive quality and insufficient supply of products, and technophobia still prevailing among some farmers.

Technophobia, or fear of technology, is a problem seen inhibiting the growth not only of farmers but also of micro and small entrepreneurs.

The Department of Science and Technology, in a bid to promote the use of information and communication technology and ease technophobia among the productive sectors of society, has conducted a series of roundtable discussions on "Learning from ICT for Development to Enhance Policymaking" with support from the International Development Research Center of Canada.

The latest of the series of forums will be held on Nov. 14 at the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries and will focus on the following small enterprise sectors: printing/publishing, micro-financing, furniture/woodcraft, metals and ancillary services. Small entrepreneurs who have successfully applied e-commerce and other ICT technology to their operations and marketing will discuss their experiences and insights.

(Firms from the printing, furniture and metal and micro financing sectors interested to join the forum are requested to call Ludy Cubillas or Dolly Recio at 928-7076 to 79.)

Lucena entrepreneur makes money from Pinoys' passion for singing

Text and photo by Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA entrepreneur Fernando Vasquez beside videoke units he personally assembles in his shop in Lucena City.

LUCENA CITY—HIS PASSION FOR singing and technical expertise acquired from a vocational school helped influence local businessman Fernando Vasquez, 43, to embark on videoke machine production.

Three years ago, fed up with singing his favorite ballads in videoke bars amid noise from fellow singing customers, Vasquez bought himself a videoke unit from a local assembler.

He paid P42,000 for the music machine which he subsequently rented out to a videoke bar in the city after it satisfied his passion in the confines of his home at the Market View subdivision in one corner of the city.

Videoke machine is a mixed system of video and song lyrics shown to viewers through a television where one can actually sing along and have fun. A singer has to insert a P5-coin for every selected song and will be graded based on the melodic rendition of the piece.

The coin-sharing arrangement is 70 percent for the owner of the videoke unit and 30 percent for the establishment, said Vasquez.

"I entered the videoke business on a trial. But I found out that it's a good venture. Most of the time, I netted P6,000 every 15 days. Singing is a popular pastime among Filipinos and a videoke machine is the most easy to follow musical accompaniment. Even a nonsinger can sing like a pro in due time," Vasquez says.

With the positive development in his new business, Vasquez, who is also involved in local fish trading, decided to expand and acquire four more videoke machines, which he also rents out to bars and sing-along joints in the city.

With the acquisition of additional units, Vasquez says he often receives queries from satisfied customers on the cost of the videoke machine and where they can order one.

This gave him the idea of also venturing into manufacturing the musical device, said Vasquez who has a diploma for a radio and television technical course from a local vocational school.

In January last year, he started assembling videoke machines and transformed a vacant space along Don Crisanto Street, also in the same subdivision, as his workshop.

He registered his venture under the trademark, "Fher-Enn Videoke," a combination of his nickname and that of his wife Angelita.

"With my technical background, I knew that I'm capable of running the business," he said.

To make him more knowledgeable on the intricacies of the musical system, Vasquez said he opened one of his videoke units and studied each of the parts and their functions.

He then hired two shop helpers and another technician to assist him in the technical aspect of the production.

"I'm also the one who personally buys all the best parts and equipment needed in the assembly line such as dynamic microphones, tweeters and speakers. I won't compromise the sound of my unit," he added.

He said he tapped the expertise of a brother-in-law to create custom-made designs for the videoke wooden casing. He pays P1,000 for every casing which is finished in three days.

He uses surplus television for his videoke which he buys for P4,000 a unit from a reputable dealer in Manila, adding it usually takes them 10 days to finish a "quality made and tested" machine. He sells his videoke machine for P35,000 to P38,000 a unit.

Vasquez believes that the videoke business will still go a long way because of the Pinoy's inherent fiesta culture and love for singing.

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FREDDY Panicucci, chair of the Linea Italia Group.

Linea Italia Group marks 25th year

CONTRARY TO WHAT SOME people might think, the fashion business is not all glamour. With innumerable brands competing neck-and-neck for the customer's hard earned peso, fashion tags come and go as fast as the tides change.

However, there are companies who remain major players in local fashion retailing, notably, the Linea Italia Group.

One of the biggest purveyors of Italian fashion in the Philippines, the company is now 25 years old. It has been through five presidents, numerous economic crises and the countless currency fluctuations. But one thing is certain after all these years—Linea Italia is still on top of the fashion game.

Founder Freddy Panicucci is as legendary as his chain of boutiques. The Harley Davidson-riding Filipino-Italian businessman is a dauntless and maverick marketing whiz of Italian fashion in the country.

From his first store in Mayfair Arcade in Makati City, Panicucci saw a market that was ready for upscale prêt-a-porter fashion. "When we opened in 1982, people thought we were crazy. They believed Filipinos wouldn't spend as much on imported clothes because there were costureras who charged a lot less," he narrates. "But I tried it anyway."

And it worked. The magnetism of European ready-to-wear was so intense that people would flock to his stores in search of Italian fashion treasures. "The textbooks will tell you if something is not feasible. But when you believe in something, even a wrong idea becomes right sometimes."

Linea Italia, says Panicucci, remains "focused on what we continue to do best—which is selling Italian clothes at competitive prices."

He adds the company is very upbeat. "We are an experimental company. We are a big fashion laboratory that studies trends, what people like and where the market is going. This has always been our mission from the beginning."

This year, the company is tracing its roots. After revolutionizing Philippine fashion with lavish events and nontraditional marketing campaigns, it is going the direct marketing route by holding a sale, slashing 50 percent off price tags on new arrivals and current collections in its 10 stores in Metro Manila and Cebu.

"We want to celebrate our 25th year by continuing to make Italian clothes more affordable to as many people as possible," he enthuses.

Panicucci notes that Filipinos are now edgier when it comes to dressing. "The fashion content in our stores is at the maximum level."

Important message to smokers from JT International

No cigarette is safe

Cigarette companies have traditionally used various means to allow consumers to distinguish between products. These may be words, like "light", "smooth", "mild" or pack colors, or other elements of product and pack design.

None of these elements of pack or product design, including the brand names, taste and flavor of our cigarettes, are intended to suggest that any cigarette is less harmful than any other.

In particular, tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide numbers printed on cigarette packs do not give individual smokers a precise figure of how much of these substances they inhale.

These numbers indicate the amount of tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide contained in the smoke of each cigarette in the pack when measured under standard conditions by a special smoking machine. They provide an internationally recognized method of comparison between different brands, used in many countries around the world by manufacturers and public authorities alike.

However, a smoking machine cannot replicate the way each individual smokes. Smokers puff on cigarettes in different ways and may inhale different amounts of tar and nicotine from what is indicated on the pack.

For instance, it is possible that when switching to cigarettes with lower tar and nicotine numbers, some smokers may vary the way they smoke and obtain to some extent the experience of smoking a higher tar and nicotine number product. They may do so, for example, by taking more puffs or larger puffs.

No cigarette is safe. So you should not switch to another type, flavor or strength of cigarettes on the assumption that it will lower your health risks from smoking. Switching is not a substitute for quitting. If you want to reduce or eliminate the health risks of smoking, quitting is the best choice for you. Many smokers have quit without help, but if you have difficulty quitting, you should consult a health professional.

JTI

Sunday BIZ

Women leaders, unite!

By Pacita U. Juan
Contributor

'Women are not afraid to fail. We have hits and misses ... but we rise up without losing face'

CIDA delegates proudly pose in front of their country flags.

IN THE BOOK "EXTREME FUTURE" BY James Canton, it was predicted that women will soon occupy more senior leadership positions and that more women will join the workforce.

This will happen in the next eight to 10 years.

It is increasingly becoming important for women to be forward-looking, and to network with each other to further business and development goals.

One such group that espouses networking worldwide is the Organization of Women in International Trade (Owit).

Founded in the United States in 1966, Owit has members and chapters in Canada, and in major cities like New York.

Recently, I was sent by the Canadian International Development Agency (Cida) to the Owit Annual Conference in Miami, Florida, along with 15 other delegates from developing countries.

The international group was composed of women leaders from Tunisia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Egypt, Chile, Brazil, India, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Comparing notes

The conference gave the women leaders a chance to compare notes on what makes women leaders and how women can be enablers in society.

It was interesting to note that women—regardless of country, race and position—share a lot of similarities when it comes to leadership strategies and how to practice social responsibility in their own communities.

There was immediately a commonality of ideas, especially among women in the developing countries. Everybody faced the same issues—women empowerment, microfinance, access to corporate board rooms, and access to funding and government intervention.

The conference is also a follow-up activity to the Apec women leaders' network meeting (held in Port Douglas, Australia, I was also sent as delegate by the Women's Business Council), which suggests important women-related topics for the Apec conference each year.

The groups from different parts of the world, US and Canada are representative of women entrepreneur groups, women business associations and women-led NGOs.

We find a need now to organize an Owit chapter in the Philippines to coordinate with the many Owit chapters internationally.

Natural networkers

What makes us all the same?

Women are natural networkers, given that we are not intimidated to reach out and get to know a seat mate in the plane, in a beauty parlor or even while shopping.

Women are multitaskers. As we are "wired" to do many tasks as mothers, career women and/or entrepreneurs, we are unfazed by many tasks that have to be done all at once.

Women are not afraid to fail. We have hits and misses at home and in the work place. But we rise up and go on without losing face.

Women, especially in our society, take the lead especially in jobs or tasks that require a lot of detail.

How often do you come across women/mothers/wives who take care of the family coffers, doing budgets, and taking the lead when the family goes for a vacation, deciding when to visit the doctor, picking up the kids, etc.

There is so much to harness in resources among our women entrepreneurs, professionals, bankers, lawyers, writers. we are now calling for all these women to rise up and be counted.

We welcome all women to be founding members of the Owit chapter in the Philippines, so we can also represent our country in this formidable organization.

(The author is chief executive officer of Figaro Coffee Corp. and president of the League of Corporate Foundations.)

THE AUTHOR (right) talks about women leaders in the Philippine setting.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Sea Princess finds paradise on earth /F2

Business as usual

PHOTOILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

What stresses her? Life, or more precisely, life in these islands we call home

By Mariel N. Francisco
Contributor

THE UNIFORMED attendant chirpily greets me, "1208?" "Yes," I eagerly reply, with all the sense of self I can muster while being apparently helpless in a wheelchair. "*O*, 1208 *nandito na*!" she shouts to her colleague in the inner recesses of the Ultrasound Unit.

I am solicitously wired and lubricated for the 2D Echo Cardiogram that will show whether the wall muscles of my heart are doing their job. Now and then the technician turns up the sound, and I am awed to hear my blood swooshing through my heart valves, like a noisy but trusty washing machine.

"All seems well," the technician smiles at me reassuringly, although he explains they are not allowed to interpret the findings. I will have to wait for my doctor to give me the official report.

The pleasant young man who had wheeled me in comes to wheel me back to my room. This time, less anxious about my condition, my heart indulges a familiar pang for those we meet in the elevators and corridors in wheelchairs or beds, attached to tubes, or suffused with the pallor of illness. Instinctively I pull my bright pink pashmina around me and over my hospital gown to assert my individuality and my good health.

Just one day in the hospital and I'm already struggling not to feel like a piece of matter. I have had blood extracted three times, oxygen pumped into me the whole night, a snake-like instrument pushed into my nose to probe my throat, an ECG and X-ray taken at my bedside, and an antacid pill pressed upon me because all my tests showed nothing wrong.

Third visit

"Ma'am, *ano ho ba talaga ang nakakastress sa inyo*?" inquires the resident in the Cardiovascular Unit with a hint of frustration. It is my third visit to the hospital complaining of heart palpitations, chest heaviness, shortness of breath, throat constriction and slight vertigo, but the doctors can only "ooh" and "aah" at the beautiful digital angiogram of my heart, with no plaque in my arteries to keep it from working perfectly. They are at a loss as to what more to do for me, since they can find no physiological basis for my symptoms.

"What stresses me? Life!" a voice inside me wanted to wisecrack, or more precisely, "Life in these blessed islands we call our nation and home." But I didn't want to dampen the young man's earnestness with my moaning and groaning.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5342 Series of 2007

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

The secret of their success

Geologist Alyssa Peleo-Alampay and geneticist Eva Cutiongco-De la Paz show how they juggle career and personal relationships

THIS WEEK, WE CONTINUE our feature on how some of this year's awardees for The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (Towns) are equally outstanding in their home lives as well.

Last week, we interviewed educators, Cathy P. Vistro-Yu and Dina S. Ocampo. This week, geologist Alyssa Peleo-Alampay shares how she is as a mom and how establishing herself in a man's world (geology) has helped her teach her children about self-esteem. Alyssa is married to Gigo, and is mom to Katria, 15, Mika, 13, and Alee, 4.

Dr. Eva Cutiongco-De la Paz is only one of five geneticists in the country. Her motherhood story is unique in the sense that she became instant mom three years ago when she married Gil, an ophthalmologist, and became mom to Nicki, 13, and King, 11.

What are some of the things that you and your children do together to bond?

Alampay: We like watching movies together at home and eating popcorn.

We like going to the movies and the mall together. The bookstore is a favorite place in the mall because there is always something for everyone.

We also try to travel as a family as often as we can. If possible, nature trips are a priority. Our kids are growing up in the city and we think they really have to be able to see nature up close.

De la Paz: I usually watch cartoons with them on weekends and we especially like "Sponge Bob Squarepants," "Pokemon," "Jimmy Neutron" and lately, "High School Musical." We also play Boggle, Scrabble, and Snakes and Ladders. For outdoor sports, I play basketball with them when I am not too tired—I always lose of course. Lately, we are trying to get our hands on the best hamburger in town. During summer vacation and holidays, we also like to go out and explore new places we have never been to.

EVA Cutiongco-De la Paz with family

How do you juggle the demands of home and work?

Alampay: I love making lists. It keeps me focused for the day. It also gives me some gratification to be able to cross out things I was able to accomplish. Lists also make me feel that the tasks are not insurmountable. Next, I ask for help. This is difficult sometimes for somebody who is used to doing things by herself. I often talk things over with my husband to get feedback and ask for his support. I also ask God for help to give me a clear mind so I can make the right decision or to give me the strength I need to go through tough days. More importantly, I love what I do. The students keep me young and geology keeps me inspired.

Above all, it helps to be optimistic. There really is a light at the end of the tunnel. The path may sometimes be long and bumpy, but there is a light at the end. I've proven this many times.

De la Paz: I think setting priorities is most important. If one has determined which matters most in life, one can actually balance work and family. Education comes as one of the top priorities for me, and I try my very best to get home to tutor them or just guide them in their homework. Easier said than done though, and only possible with God's grace. And so one of the most important priorities for me and my husband is to pray for them to such a point that it becomes as Stormie Omartian puts it, an "unending habit" of our hearts.

It's also very important to plan ahead. I look at their school schedule ahead of time and try my best not to accept big engagements around examination period.

"Just doing it" works for me. Because of the demands I face each day which include taking care of patients, teaching students, doing research—postponing things to do for the children will just keep piling up and may all together be forgotten. A very effective strategy is just do it when it comes to my mind.

ALYSSA Peleo-Alampay with family

I am also privileged to have a house next to my mother-in-law's house.

Geology, like you say, is still predominantly, a man's field, yet you have done so well! What life lessons have you been able to pass to them?

Alampay: I hope I am able to build their confidence and self-esteem by encouraging them to do things for themselves and be independent. I hope that the can-do attitude will filter through them. I try to emphasize that there are no fixed gender roles, that the most important thing is they are happy with what they do. I think that if they grow to be happy and fulfilled individuals, they can pass that on to others and benefit others as well.

How were you able to adjust into the lives of your kids? What were some of the challenges that you had to face, if any, and how did you overcome them?

De la Paz: I have a different story as a mother because my children are not my own. I met a widower with two boys, aged 5 and 7 then, six years ago. My husband and I just celebrated our third wedding anniversary last June. So I am a stepmom to two wonderful boys, Nicki and King. I told them after their father and I got married that I am not here to replace their mother, I am here to continue what she was not able to finish because much as we don't like cancer or death, they happen. I also told them that I needed all their help because I have no experience being a mom, so they have to teach me. I think my greatest challenge is loving and caring for them as if they were my own.

What are some tips that you can give to a parent whose child has just been diagnosed with a genetic disorder?

De la Paz: Acceptance is the most vital step—once this happens, once the family accepts the diagnosis, they can move on and have the multispecialty care most children with genetic disorders need to have. Accepting the diagnosis propels the family to seek help and get focused on the needs of the child. It is important to emphasize during the genetic counseling session that there was nothing they did or did not do that caused it to happen. The occurrence of genetic disorders or birth defects is beyond our control. But what we can control is our response to the situation—by accepting it we put the child's best interest at heart.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

Congress on protecting the youth

SEVERAL COUNTRIES WILL convene in Manila for Love, Laughter and Life Ever After, the Second International Congress on Education in Love, Sex, and Life, Nov. 19-22, at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

Among those expected to attend are representatives of Australia, Singapore, United States, Mexico, Chile, Taiwan, Spain, Italy, and the Philippines, among others.

The conference will tackle the theory that the deterioration in quality education may be responsible for increasing sexual promiscuity, abortion and, in general, skewed decision-making.

The first congress was held in Mexico while the next meeting in 2009 will be hosted by the US.

The conference coincides with the launch in Manila of the I Keep Love Real (iKLR) campaign through a nationwide iKLR songwriting and documentary filmmaking competition.

A research study drew responses from over 4,000 youth respondents across the archipelago. The congress calls on parents, teachers, media, government, non-government organizations, business leaders, and youth leaders to take responsibility in teaching chastity through character education.

Congress director (and senior consultant of the I Am S.T.R.O.N.G. program) Dr. Antonio Torralba says, "Youth education is the key to future social development... helping the young prepare themselves for love and life have been a matter of growing concern for families and other educators. It deserves the proper attention from all social institutions and authorities."

Philippine organizers EDUCHILD Foundation, Inc., Developmental Advocacy for Women Volunteerism, and I Am S.T.R.O.N.G., together with Rome's Intermedia Consulting and the Philippine Department of Education, has gathered advocates from different countries and sectors to generate solid worldwide support.

Among them are Protégé tu Corazon (Mexico), Educarse (Chile), Sex Respect (USA), Choicez Media (Australia), World Foundation for Women Power (Taiwan), True Love Waits (USA with Philippine chapter), and Mercatornet (Australia).

Speakers are Keith Liu (Singapore), Jonathan and Karen Doyle (Australia), Patrick Fagan (USA), Esther Esteban (USA), Kevin Ryan (USA), Thomas Lickona (USA), Jokin de Irala (Spain), and Francis Kong, Juan M. Borra III, and Lora Tan-Garcia (Philippines).

Torralba says, "Without (adult) guidance, our teens can be tricked into making decisions that they don't realize will hurt. Let us protect them from abusive influences and keep an eye on their needs especially in their teenage years when they are most vulnerable. Let us guide them into making right decisions about life, love, and relationships. Let us all work in unison towards keeping love real."

Organizers are InterMedia Consulting, EDUCHILD Foundation, Inc., and the Developmental Advocacy for Women Volunteerism, in collaboration with I Am S.T.R.O.N.G. and Department of Education. Co-presentors are Globe, GMA 7, and Radio GMA.

Sponsors are National Bookstore, San Miguel Corporation, ClickTheCity.com, Radio Mindanao Network, Close-Up, Nestle, and URC (www.edicongress.com, 6356114).

Business as usual

From page C1

Besides, another part of me was beaming that, at last, medical professionals are taking the body-mind connection as a given. Not too long ago so-called psychosomatic ailments were pooh-poohed as being "just in your head." These days almost every disease is recognized to have its origins in our mental and emotional state.

Violent jolts

Mine has not been too good lately. My heart has been enduring violent jolts of incredulity and bafflement since my governor, Among Ed, revealed that half a million pesos had dropped on his lap practically from heaven. There he is, waving bundles of thousand-peso bills to a cash-starved public, while each government agency in turn cries, "Not I," "Not I." Well, it is I, who pay my taxes and try to be a good citizen in every way, who feel the money somehow came from the sweat of my brow, and this *moro-moro* angers me.

And yes, I admit I am stressed by the thought of terrorists setting off bombs in crowded shopping malls. Or if it was indeed an accident, will I have to worry whether my mall owner is draining the septic tanks and storing diesel fuel properly everytime I step into a mall—which is not very often, but my children do more frequently.

My heart is wrenched by the fate of the hapless victims, whose souls were flung unceremoniously to the other dimension, perhaps now looking down in shock at one's head lying some distance away, or at a stray arm or leg if even recognizable. It's no way to go!

The media, too, I am keenly aware, stresses me. There was a time when I stopped reading the papers and made it a point to skip the 10 p.m. news for my own well-being. But I've drifted back to my bad habit of wanting to know what's going on, only to feel sick that so-called journalists can't find better ways of using our ink and paper—and their imagination—than to allege that no less than my President set off the bomb. Or, illogically swinging to the opposite theory, that her political opponents, terrorists masquerading as leaders, did it. I don't know whether to laugh or cry, and surely that confuses even my strong and beautiful heart, causing it to turn raucous somersaults that my doctors can only label as "panic attacks."

Stop worrying

"Don't think too much, stop worrying..." They pat my back patronizingly. Yes, of course, I'm trying. What really helps me is just sitting a few minutes a day in my meditation corner and being in the stillness where mystics say they experience God. I want to remind Among Ed that, especially now that he is on leave from the priesthood, he has to beef up his spiritual practices.

I can't help but observe that, despite the fact that Holy Mass is now celebrated in malls, the mall is the very contradiction of that quiet place inside us where we all need to go now and then. Truly it would have lifted my spirits a bit if the mall owners had initiated a modest and dignified ritual to acknowledge that that spot in the mall has become hallowed ground.

There—whether by fatal neglect or evil intent—human souls transitioned to the next life. Lighting of candles, laying of flowers, offering of prayers—led by mall owners, priests and imams, would manifest that we recognize our spiritual as well as physical reality. People did this spontaneously in New York, Bali, Madrid, London. But here I guess they feel it's bad for business.

So the father who wanted to kneel and bow his head on the spot where his daughter had breathed her last was blocked from entering the premises.

And my president offers cash, jobs and scholarships in gestures meant to comfort the afflicted, then imeldifically shops for shoes.

"Business as usual," she smiles for the cameras, and the mall owners announce with indecent haste, even as 11 families are still mourning their unburied dead, and more than a hundred maimed victims are nursing wounds and permanent injuries. The valiant rescue workers and untiring hospital personnel are still reeling from the trauma of so much blood and human suffering, as must innocent bystanders with any degree of sensitivity. I shake my head in distress... and my heart quakes even louder.

Swift pardon

It's "business as usual" too for a convicted plunderer who has not admitted guilt, shown remorse, apologized, offered to do restitution, or shown any other sign of changing his ways. Neither, by the way, did he ask for the executive pardon so swiftly granted him. With cunning words his lawyers have obtained it on his behalf while he expresses scorn for our justice system and remains aloof from my president—the only authority who can grant it. Did she peer into her heart and muster such magnanimity in order to unite our beloved country, or was she just eager to get back to "business as usual"?

My heart is filled with dread of seeing on the front pages the who's who flocking to a disgraced and deposed non-leader, while worthier, saner, matters are deemed too boring for media to dwell on.

Now the Black and White Movement wants me to wear black and tie black ribbons everywhere, saying that black is the color at the core of my nation's heart. But I don't think so. More likely it's a murky green. Not the green of nature and all that is fresh and alive, but the green of money. Money that sprouts from anonymous paper bags, money stashed away in bank accounts here and abroad, money thrown around by the hundreds of millions, and you're a fool if you don't grab it.

Business as usual? My heart fibrillates furiously, refusing to bounce back with as much alacrity as is demanded by those who are eager to see this country keep moving move on. No, no, no, we need to pause a while and feel disgust at what we're doing to ourselves. We need to tenderly listen to our hearts and not choke them with the cold fingers of materialism. We are sick, sick at heart, and all the state-of-the-art ECG's and CT scans can't tell us what's wrong with us.

St. Paul University reunion

WHAT DO AMBASSADOR MA. CONSUELO Puyat-Reyes, Assumption College president Sr. Mary Gertrude Borres, television network executive Charo Santos-Concio, design maven Jeanne Margaret Lim-Goulbourn, broadcast personality June Keithley-Castro, US-based author/philanthropist Lily Gamboa-O'Boyle and prima ballerina Tina Santos-Wahl; singers Cynthia Patag, Janet Basco, Melissa de Leon; actresses Baby Barredo, Sherry Lara, and Joy Soler have in common?

They are all AB/Education graduates of St. Paul College of Manila, now St. Paul University Manila.

Together with other well-known Paulinians—acting DOJ Secretary Agnes Torres-Devanadera, Cristina Castaner-Ponce Enrile, Celeste Legaspi, Noemi Manikan, Ivy Violan, and Pinky Marquez—they are expected to attend the first grand reunion of the AB, Education, and Home Economics graduates and First Pre-Centennial Activity for All Paulinians this month.

Graduates of high school and other college courses are also encouraged to attend. St. Paul University Manila is gearing up for a grand celebration of its centennial year in 2012.

The reunion is on Nov. 24, 6 p.m., with a Mass to be celebrated by Fr. James B. Reuter, SJ. This will be followed by a special dinner, a raffle, and a show featuring musical numbers by alumnae and the St. Paul University Manila Chorale and Dance Troupe.

The reunion is organized by the Arts and Sciences Alumnae Chapter led by president Marionette Ocampo-Martinez, vice president Ma. Lourdes Tesoro-Castañeda, secretary Dorothy Lucasan, treasurer Maritess Guidote-Aguirre, and PRO-Sherry Lara-Alingod. Supporting is the St. Paul University Manila led by Wynna Marie A. Medina.

A family's journey with ASD

(Editor's note: Call the Autism Society of the Philippines (ASP) at 9266941 or 9298447 if your child has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). ASP organizes family support group meetings and seminars, as well as shares resources among families of children with ASD. Today is the last day of the ASP's National Conference on Autism at the Philippine Columbian.)

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

JOHN and Miriam Sy are as proud of their autistic child Ethan (second from right) as they are of his neurologically typical elder brother Tyler (far left).

I DID NOT NOTICE IT AT first," says John Sy, a secondary math teacher in Xavier School. "We were living in New Jersey, and our one-and-a-half year old, Ethan, had been developing nicely. He was babbling and beginning to talk. He loved to make 'scary' faces. He had a toothy smile."

"But Ethan's speech began to regress," continues Sy. "He lost the few words he had begun to say and the scary faces were no more than images captured on film. He began to look away and not pay attention to the people around him."

John's wife Miriam sensed something was wrong. Ethan's pediatrician assured them that things were normal, but Miriam insisted on a referral to the state's Early Intervention Program. After observing Ethan as he walked on tiptoes and watched TV, the counselors finally suggested that the couple consult a pediatric neurologist.

After a battery of tests, "we heard the 'a-word' for the first time," says John. Ethan was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) with mild autistic tendencies. Miriam was in tears, but John was relieved that the illness was not fatal. Ethan was about two years old then.

Early intervention

Research shows that when autism is dealt with early, the better the child will function in the future. Ethan immediately started occupational and physical therapy sessions weekly.

When Ethan turned three, he started going to special education every morning, and to a therapist for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in the afternoons. "We had comprehensive services from the state and Miriam was working with Ethan on the off days," Sy says. "There was noticeable progress. Ethan learned to sit still and listen to instruction. Things couldn't be better. Then the roof caved in."

In early 2003, Sy learned that his employer would no longer be sponsoring the family for green cards. They had to return to the Philippines.

"This was a major crisis for us," Sy says. "Where in the Philippines could we find the level of care that we were receiving in New Jersey? We tried everything—lawyers, congressmen, more lawyers in a desperate attempt to be able to stay." But on Easter Sunday 2003, the family flew back to Manila.

Coping in Manila

The parents made sure that their son would not regress. They were armed with ABA books and techniques. "Miriam was Anne Sullivan to Ethan's Helen Keller," John says.

After a vigorous search, Miriam finally found the Makati-based Behavior Management for Autistic Children (BMAC), a foundation that provided daily home ABA services. She also hooked up with physical and occupational therapy providers for weekly sessions. Progress was slow but sure.

In 2005, Ethan's pediatrician recommended that he be put on the drug Ritalin to help him focus. But John and Miriam did not want to rely on drugs, so they searched the Net and found Defeat Autism Now! (DAN), a group of physicians and scientists who use drugs only when other approaches fail. However, there is no DAN-certified practitioner in the Philippines, so the family flew to Hong Kong.

The DAN doctor required Ethan to be put on a gluten-free and casein-free (GF-CF) diet to combat certain gastrointestinal issues that affected autism. Ethan was allergic to rice, corn, soy, eggs, and other staples, so aside from dairy, wheat, pasta, and baked goods, all these were eliminated from his diet. Ethan also took vitamin supplements.

"For the past three years, Ethan's food has been organic and GF-CF," Sy says. "We have slowly reintroduced rice into his diet. Ethan can't have food that isn't prepared at home, no restaurant food, no party food and certainly no fast food. When we travel, we bring his food with us. Miriam is a regular at Healthy Options stores where she buys Ethan's GF-CF snacks and juices. This is by far the most difficult—and expensive—part of Ethan's therapy. But we've stuck with it because we know it helps him."

> Autism has no known definite cause, though genetics, diet and the environment have been identified as possible culprits

Whole body disorder

Last September, John and Miriam attended the Second Asian Autism Conference in Hong Kong. They learned that autism is not so much a brain disorder, but rather, a whole body disorder, with the brain profoundly affected. Autistic children suffer from often painful gastrointestinal issues that affect brain processes.

"Since the child cannot express pain in a way his parents can understand, he often acts out aggressively," Sy explains. A strict GFCF diet becomes important. Many autistic children have high levels of heavy metals like mercury and lead in their blood. They cannot detoxify in the same way that most people do, so they suffer from metal poisoning.

But with patience and love, families can cope with autism. Today, Ethan is a happy eight-year old. "He is autistic, yes, but frankly, that's the way we like it," Sy says. "He wouldn't be our son if he weren't autistic. We are very proud of him, as proud of him as we are of his big brother, Tyler."

Coping with autism

AUTISM IS A COMMON DISORDER that can disrupt normal development. Usually diagnosed when a child is 2-3 years old, autism has no known definite cause, though genetics, diet and the environment have been identified as possible culprits.

John and Miriam Sy share the following tips for parents of autistic children:

1. Always be guided by a competent physician who is experienced in working with autistic children. Therapists should be experienced and certified. The field of autism treatment is lucrative; there are many uncertified or, worse, incompetent practitioners who are in it solely for the money.

2. Put your child on a GF-CF diet. This is difficult, but it is the single most important thing you can do from a biomedical standpoint. If your child can't do without bread or pasta, then at the very least keep him off dairy.

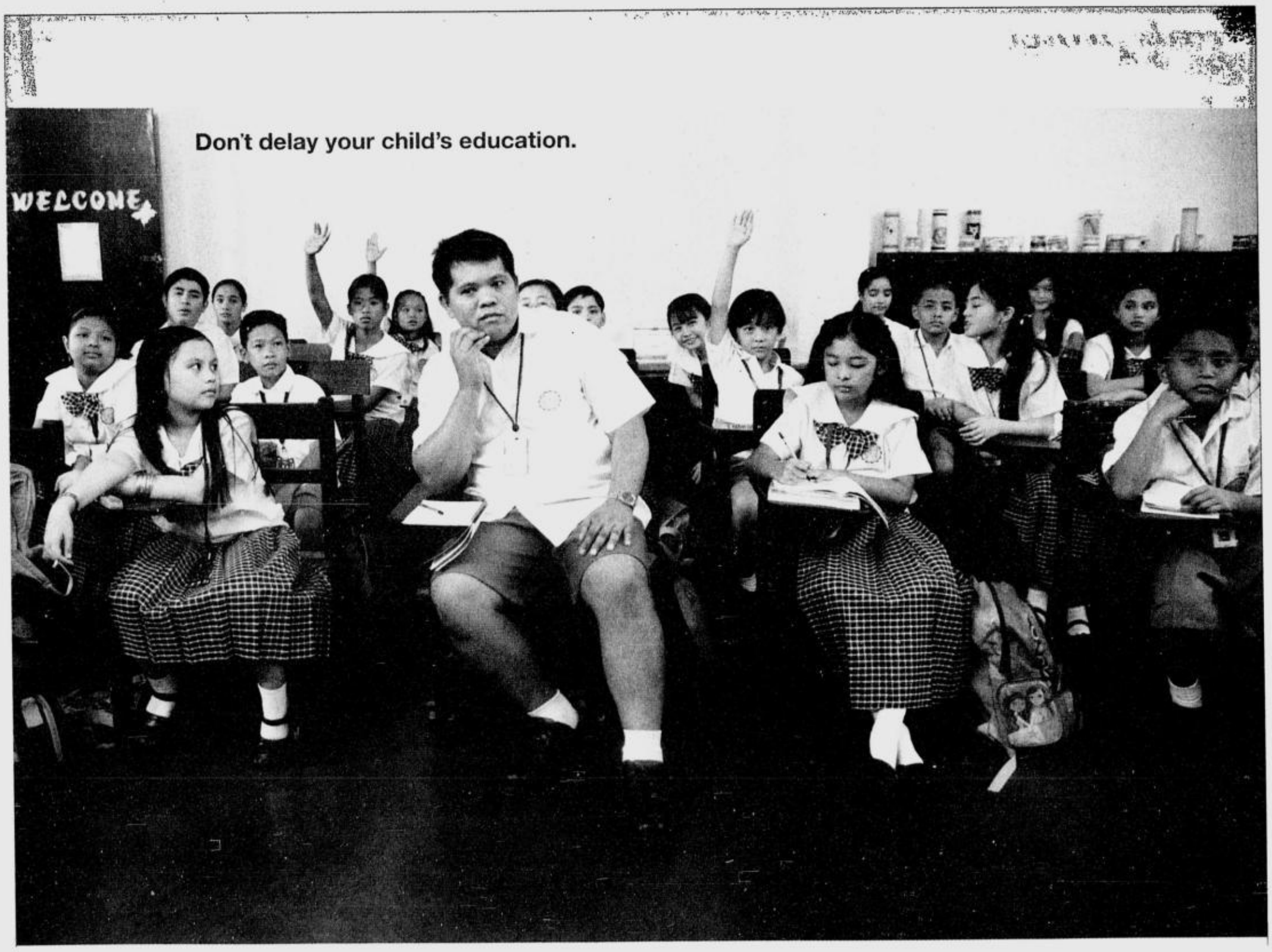
3. Put your child on ABA along with the GF-CF diet. There are other alternative therapies, but we have found ABA to be the only therapy that has been effective.

4. Don't succumb to the pressure of peers or in-laws to put your child in school. Put your child in school only when he is deemed ready by his therapists and physicians. Putting your child in school too early wastes money, puts unnecessary stress, and since the school may not be able to handle autistic children, he will be asked to leave anyway.

5. Educate yourself. Attend seminars and workshops to increase your knowledge and network with other parents. The Internet is a treasure trove of knowledge about autism. Do your research.

Most of all, John and Miriam say, "Accept your child's condition with joy. He may be autistic but he is your most precious gift from God."

For ABA programs, go to www.naturalhealingcenter.com/bmac-aba/behavior.htm



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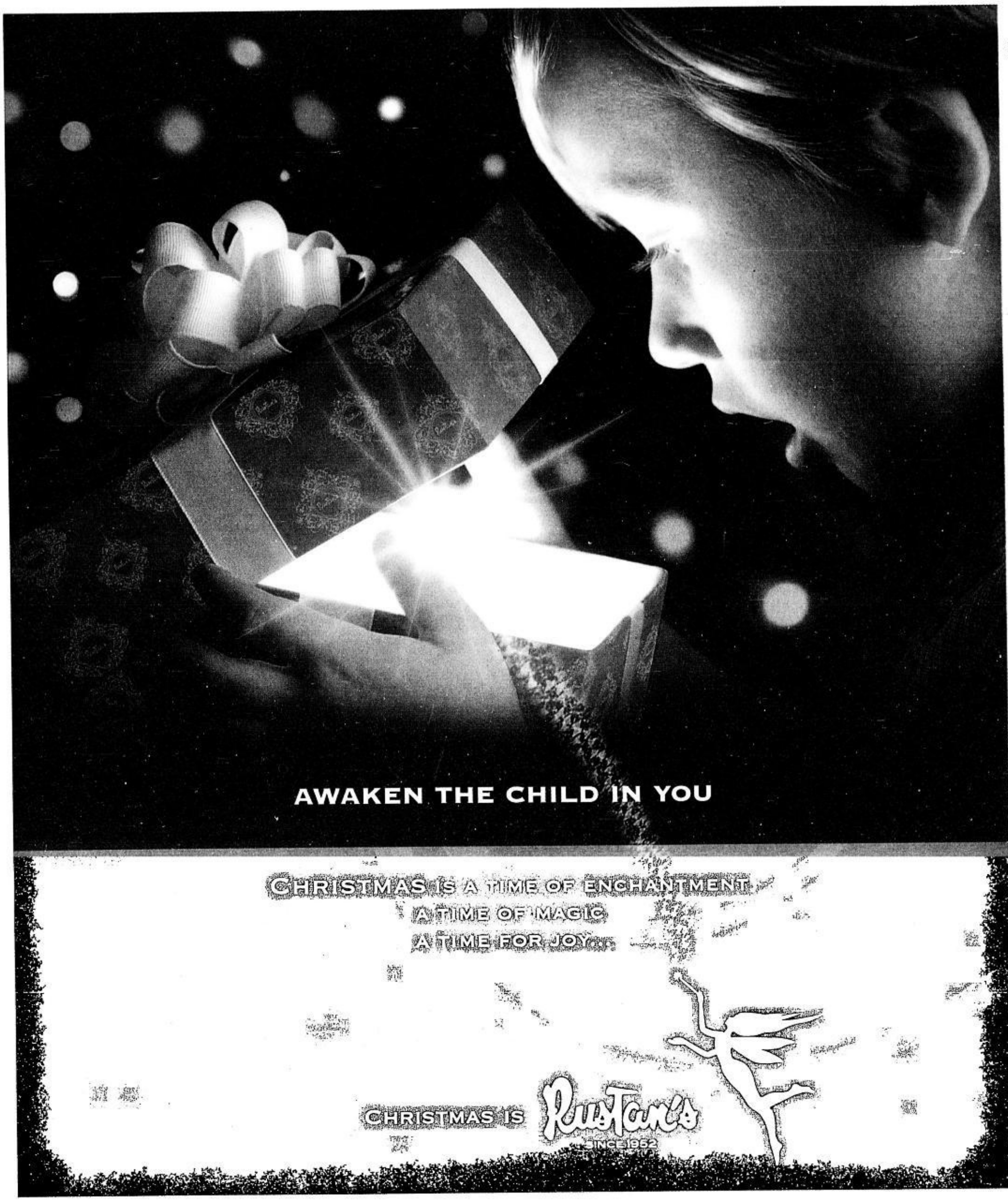

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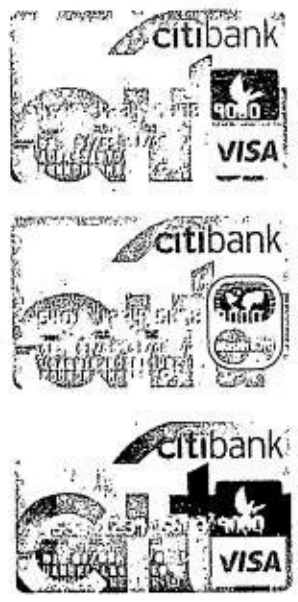

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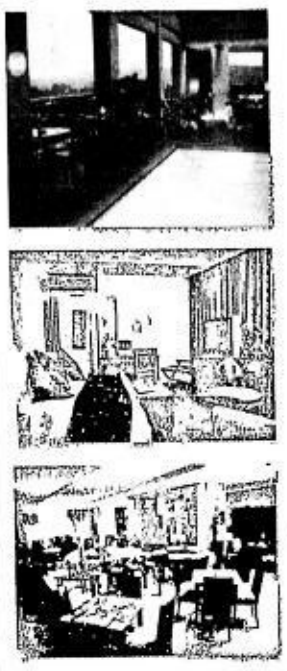

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CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell

Cebu's lovely seven

THE MARCO POLO PLAZA HOTEL HELD its first Cebu Grand Debutantes Ball for the benefit of the charities of the Fashion Council of Cebu (FCC). Some members of the FCC made the gowns worn by seven lovely girls from Cebu's prominent families.

The debutantes were Monica Villarica, daughter of Rene and Marget Villarica; Ma. Isabella Selma, daughter of Moises and Evelyn Selma; Jennifer Elaine and Jasmin Ellen Sarmiento, twin daughters of Edgar and Jennifer Sarmiento; Erika Ong, daughter of Esther Ong; Donna Lim, daughter of Ronald and Sandra Therese Lim; and Vanetee Alvarez, daughter of Marlon and Jean Alvarez.

Albert Arriba did Monica's gown; Philip Rodriguez, Erika's; Minnie Yuviengco, Donna's; Arcy Gayatin, Vanetee's; and Jun Escario for the rest—Ma. Isabella and the Sarmiento twins.

Guests were led up a grand staircase decorated with flowers to the ballroom, which was also adorned with pink blooms and satin tablecloths.

An exquisite plated menu was served as a string quartet from the Peace Philharmonic played classical and popular airs. Cebuana talent Yenti Beltran sang several ballads.

Queen Mother

Seated in a place of honor was the hotel's general manager, Hans Hauri, with his wife Bo who reigned as the ball's Queen Mother. She was led to a throne on stage where she received the curtsies of the debutantes.

Vince Escario was the evening's toastmaster. He announced the entrance of the debutantes with their parents. The girls were presented bouquets of flowers that they set aside for the waltz with their dads or brothers.

They were serenaded by heartthrob Gian Magdangal who asked each of the girls for a twirl on the dance floor as he sang. He had more songs for them, and he was very much applauded.

We were sure that if he had been told, he would have gone straight to the hotel's sales/marketing director, Lynn Romero, who was celebrating her birthday that day.

Gian said he had fond memories of Cebu since it was here that he was chosen as a finalist in the "Philippine Idol" tilt.

Lucky man

He added that it was his first time to sing at a debutantes ball, and he considered himself lucky. "Not just one, but seven of the prettiest girls ever," he said with a radiant smile.

The escorts now made their appearance—Kevin Ross Lee, Kevin Tecson, Jun Dakay, Bruce Teves, Kane Gandionco, Neil Ong and Don Paolo Tirol.

Then it was time for the Cotillion, superbly choreographed by Junjet Primor. It incorporated a series of charming Viennese waltzes. Words cannot describe the swish of pink and white tulle, and the sparkle of family jewels.

As the Cotillion ended many stood up to circulate about, buss the debutantes, congratulate their parents, and exchange impressions about a truly lovely evening.

For those who wanted to linger, the Interact Band dished out music for the rest of the evening, but many went hurrying downstairs for the 10 p.m. show of Gian Magdangal at the lobby lounge. It was SRO (standing-room only)!

Gian is a nice kid, completely self-effacing, and most candid, as some of us found out earlier in the day over lunch with media friends.

With him were his public relations director Arnie Tan of Luxe Mode Events and his guitar accompanist Jollibee Borbajo, who was teased if he would like to adopt McDonald as his surname.

Marco Polo GM Hans says the debutantes' ball will be an annual event. PR manager Carlo Borromeo and his assistant Rheena Garcia nod approvingly and promise to launch it by June, the better to gather more participants and a larger crowd.

GAMBIA Consul Agnes Huibonhua; Washington Sycip, JSSP adviser; Monaco consul Fortune Ledesma, president of the Johann Strauss society of the Philippines and ambassador for Airfrance KLM Philippines

RUPERT Jacinto, Tina Jacinto and Paul Sunico

AMBASSADOR Jorge Montero of Chile, Mme. Johanna Montero of Chile, Pascale and Ian Thackwray

Successful concert for charity

THE JOHANN STRAUSS SOCIETY OF the Philippines (JSSP) recently hosted Concert in the Afternoon at the Blue Leaf, Banyan Pavilior, Fort Bonifacio, to thank all its sponsors, benefactors and friends.

The organizing committee was headed by JSSP president, Consul Fortune Ledesma of Monaco, who was recently designated as the ambassador for Air France-KLM Philippines. With her were chairperson Chit Gohu and co-chairperson Olga Severino Martel who spearheaded a most successful event, with KLM and The Blue Leaf as major sponsors.

The first part of the program, Melodies & Love Songs, included popular tunes sang by the romantic balladeer José Mari Chan and Carla Guevara Laforteza, who played Kim in the West End production of Miss Saigon in London.

This was followed by the presentation of P1 million donated by the JSSP to the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) for its audience development, scholarship and Arts for the People programs. This amount was raised at the Dinner Dance Musicale held on July 12.

Ledesma called the chairperson of the event, Olga Severino Martel and co-chair Agnes Huibonhoa, to join her in the check presentation to CCP president Nes Jardin. She also inducted 52 new members.

The second part, Rhapsody on the Keyboard, featured piano virtuoso Raul Sunico, who played medleys from Broadway plays such as "Phantom of the Opera," "My Fair Lady" and ended the musicale presentation with a fantastic performance of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

The JSSP, ever the dynamic group, had a few more surprises for the 500 or so powerhouse guests composed of diplomats and members of high society and business.

KLM, represented by Ihab Sorial (general manager of South China Sea, Air France-KLM), raffled off five round-trip tickets to Europe on business class. Samsung, another major sponsor, donated two top-of-the-line mobile phones as raffle prizes.

Among those who enjoyed the afternoon's musical presentation were Mayor and Mrs. Freddie Tinga, Washington Sycip, Chief Justice and Mrs. Artemio Panganiban, Tingting Cojuangco. Also in attendance were ambassadors and consuls of over 35 countries, including Ambassador Mario and Mme. Sylvia Schuff (Argentina), Ambassador and Mme. Gregoire Vardakis (Belgium), Ambassador and Mme. Jorge and Mme. Johanna Montero (Chile), Ambassador and Mme. Jorge Rey Jimenez (Cuba), Ambassador Salwa Moufid (Egypt), Ambassador and Mme. Felipe Pitty (Panama), Ambassador and Mme. Irzan Tanjung (Indonesia), Ambassador and Mme. Leuane Sombounkhan (Laos), Ambassador and Mme. Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi (Malaysia), Erendira Paz Campos (Mexico), Ambassador and Mme. Muhammad Naemm Khan (Pakistan), Ambassador Ramon Rechebei (Palau), Ambassador Luis and Mme. Soledad Arias (Spain), Ambassador Peter Vermulen (South Africa), Ambassador and Mme. Adnan Basaga (Turkey), Ambassador Peter and Mme. Jill Beckingham (UK), Mme. Jana Ludva (Czech Rep), Mme. Kavita Mitter (India), Mme. Martina Corrado (Austria) and many others.

The JSSP officers are Letty Syquia (chair), Fortune Ledesma (president), Olga Severino Martel and Helmut Gaisberger (vice presi-

NES Jardin, president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Leni Panganiban, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban

EVIE Costa, Justa Tantoco, Bobby Novenario

OLGA Severino Martel, ambassador Nileema Noble of the United Nations Commission, Mr. Kayo Noble

NINI Layug, José Mari Chan, Pilie Barrenechea, Marites Tantoco; Joey Laurente (above right)

AMBASSADOR Leuane and Mme. Manithone Sombounkhan of Laos with Ditas Posadas

CRISELDA Lontok, Mary Prieto, Marilou Lovina, Ofie Recto

BINGO Braganza, commercial director South China Sea Airfrance KLM, and Ihab Sorial, GM South China Sea Airfrance KLM

Therapharma allies with med orgs in fight against hypertension

Therapharma, a division of Unilab, partnered with the Philippine Heart Association (PHA), Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH) and Stroke Society of the Philippines (SSP) in reminding Filipino patients to take part in the fight against hypertension through as series of print, radio and TV ads.

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) signifying the partnership was signed between the presidents of the three medical societies namely: Dr. Rafael Castillo of PSH, Dr. Efren Vicaldo of PHA, and Dr. Ester Santos-Bitanga of SSP and Therapharma's General Manager, John Dumpit. The MOA signing was held at the Therapharma's office in Greenhills, San Juan last October 25, 2007.

The campaign aims to raise public awareness about hypertension and the importance of consulting a doctor about the disease. It has become a practice among Filipinos to seek advice first from their friends and listen to their "friendly neighbors" before going to a real doctor. Usually, they go to their doctors when their disease has already developed complications.

The three Presidents of the country's leading medical societies have joined forces to stress the importance of managing hypertension seriously. Because hypertension has no signs or symptoms at all, it is often called a "silent killer" and the people who have it as "walking time bombs". Because it reveals minimal or no symptoms at all, a person would usually not notice that he already has until such time his heart, kidneys or brain has already been damaged . If left uncontrolled, hypertension may cause stroke, heart disease and kidney failure.

The new campaign will have Dr. Vicaldo, Dr.Castillo and Dr. Santos-Bitanga calling on all Filipinos to go to their doctor, have their BP checked, live a healthy lifestyle and participate actively in the fight against hypertension.

Hypertension is the leading cause of severe illnesses such as diabetes, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases among many Filipinos. In 2003, the prevalence of hypertension in the Philippines is 17.4 percent compared to 17.1 percent in 1998.

A "Marunong ang nagtatanong" Hotline: 1-800-10-6-HEALTH (432584) has been set up to answer queries regarding the campaign, particularly questions on hypertension and stroke. The hotline will also be patched to the said medical societies.

Dr. Ester Santos-Bitanga of SSP

(From left to right): Dr. Rafael Castillo of PSH, Dr. Efren Vicaldo of PHA, Mr. John Dumpit, Therapharma's General Manager

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

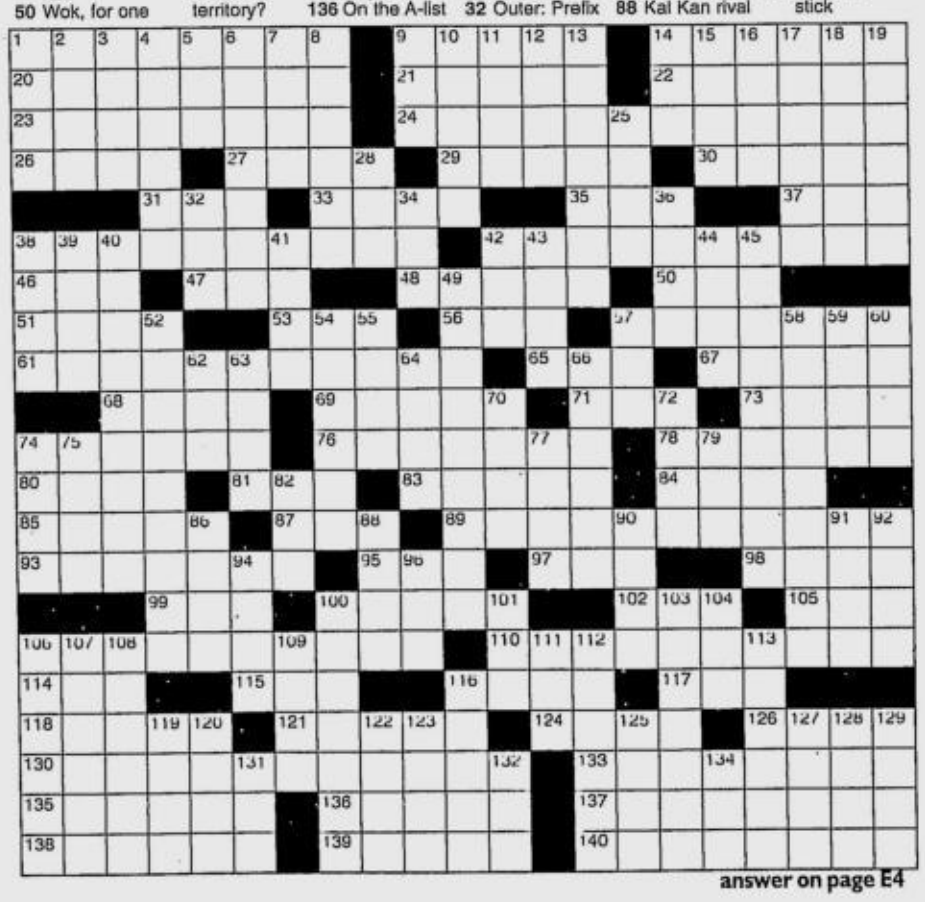
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — STRIKEOUTS

ACROSS

1 Small plot of land
9 Bashful
14 Ancient foe of Athens
20 Weigh down excessively
21 Refrigerator brand
22 More like a busybody
23 Tom Arnold's ex
24 Impart a shine to a percussion instrument?
26 Meal for an aardvark
27 Color a bit
29 A bit foggy
30 Brief quarrel
31 Fair grade
33 Room offerers
35 Not broken
37 Conger or moray
38 Take a utility knife out of its package?
42 Doom a Nissan SUV to failure?
46 Knot up
47 Giants legend Mel
48 Valerie Harper title role
50 Wok, for one
51 Singer — James
53 Give a hand
56 Iris locale
57 "The Odessa File" novelist Frederick
61 Puzzle TV's "Warrior Princess"?
65 "— you satisfied?"
67 Greek "A"
68 Copycatted
69 New, in Spain
71 City SE of Oklahoma City
73 Z — "zebra"
74 Done up at a hair salon
76 Take a hatchet to some plant tissue?
78 Covering with asphalt
80 Singer India.—
81 "Hooray!"
83 Takes a shot
84 Like villains
85 Freshman's grade
87 "... beauty — joy forever"
89 Add an idyllic place to one's territory?
93 Chinese appetizer
95 Oahu garland
97 High-fashion initials
98 Striped antelopes
99 "Mer" liquid
100 Once — time
102 Tiny particle
105 NFL successes
106 List an inert gas in the correct directory?
110 Cajole bandleader Cugat?
114 View
115 Slippery — tree
116 Mail in
117 "Au revoir!"
118 — -forming
121 "Drive South" singer John
124 Window base
126 Pool triangle
130 Pierce a medical picture?
133 Bishop over a district
135 On — basis (for testing out)
136 On the A-list
137 French kids' song
138 Speaking platforms
139 Suburb of Buffalo
140 Parenthetic statement

DOWN

1 Israeli round dance
2 Bard's river
3 For fear that
4 Plaster painting
5 — carte
6 Frame of reference
7 Rajah's wife
8 Heavenly
9 "... — a puddy tat!"
10 Mosque ministers
11 Long skirt
12 "Need You Tonight" rock group
13 Florida race place
14 — -Cone
15 Bursts
16 Tennis great
17 Violent mob member
18 One camping out
19 Colorful ring
25 Bobcat, e.g.
28 It blasts
32 Outer: Prefix
34 —'wester
36 Public show
38 Lone Star State sch.
39 Nick at —
40 Ratting out
41 Impose — on (levy)
42 Elation
43 Notion
44 Ms. Lipinski
45 Putting in bondage
49 Downpour
52 McIntosh source
54 Ceases, informally
55 Two, in Nice
57 Nourished
58 Michigan city
59 Slender
60 Suspend
62 Director Ang
63 Water swirl
64 Barber's cry
66 Old Egyptian king
70 Actress Lena
72 Pinnacle
74 Rational
75 Math class
77 Start of a counting-out rhyme
79 Hollywood's Gardner
82 Feel awful
86 Hoodwink
88 Kal Kan rival
90 VII times VII
91 Guy
92 Brezhnev's fed.
94 Elegance
96 Time on end
100 Not blended
101 Killer serve
103 Deep dull-red color
104 Voter's "no"
106 Famed film flop of 1987
107 Close by
108 Precludes
109 Of grades 1-12, briefly
111 Walk- — (brief roles)
112 Reebok rival
113 Tony winner Ben
116 Condition
119 — for the long haul
120 Old Russian autocrat
122 Wheel shaft
123 Journey
125 1953 Leslie Caron role
127 Concerning
128 Suffragist Carrie Chapman —
129 Patella site
131 Tampa loc.
132 Hedge bush
134 Billiards stick



answer on page E4

IOIN Monserrat, Johanna and Joyce Canilao of KLM

dents), Agnes Huinbonhoa (secretary), Charisse Chuidian (assistant secretary), Fanny Blanco (treasurer), Marge Ortiz Luis (assistant treasurer); members of the board are Cristina Belton, Betty Chua, Rod Cornejo, Chit Gohu, Mila How, Johnny Litton, Mike Valera, George Yang and Eddie Yap.

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Good news! Due to insistent public demand and as a special christmas gift, we are extending the early bird promo rate until **November 17, 2005 (Thursday)**. See next hand column for registration info.

WORKSHOP DETAILS:
Date: November 17, 2007 (Saturday)
Time: 10 am to 8 pm
Venue: SM Megamall Conference Center, 5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall, Ortigas Complex, EDSA, Philippines
Seminar Rate: P3,000.00* / participant
Early-Bird Rate: P1,499.00* EXTENDED
(Register before November 15, 2007 / THURSDAY)
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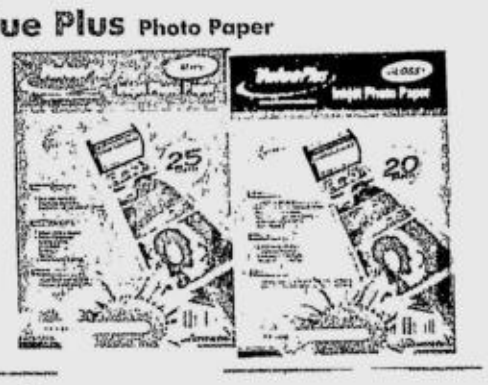

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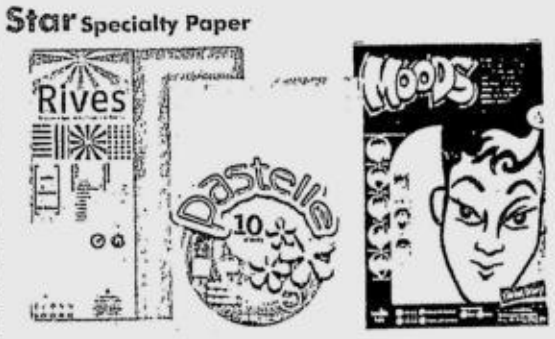

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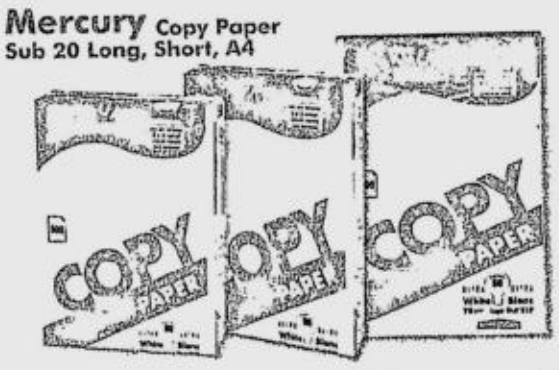

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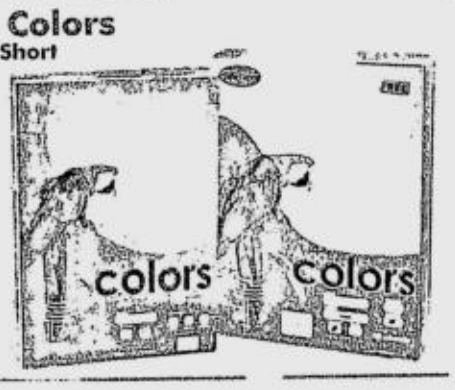

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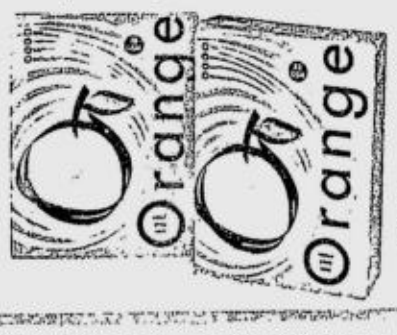

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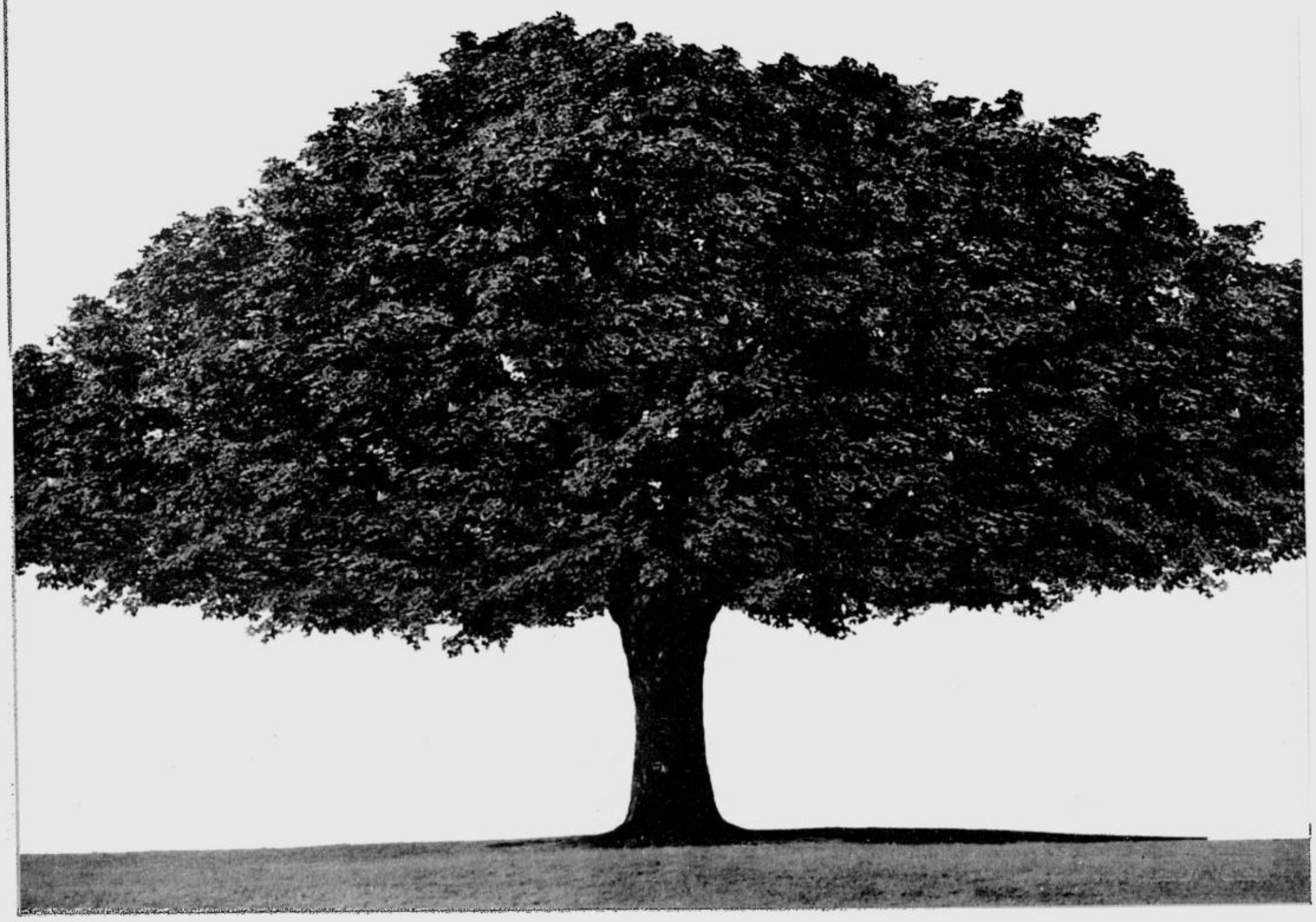

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 11, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER E1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Text us your fee ame/age/ city) or 283 (Smart)

all us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

BUTCH and Carina Sarfati: 17 years in love and married for the last five years

A sweet affair to remember

By Maurice Arcache

A TRULY UNIQUE COUPLE, dahlings, Butch and Carina Sarfati, having been in love for the past (take note, *palanggas*) 17 years and married in the last five, decided to reaffirm their vows and sail off to the romantic sunset once more, literally that is.

An intimate group of 30 principal sponsors, *famille* and select pals boarded at the Yacht Club as the golden sun was about to disappear in the horizon. Those who attended this rekindling of a lifetime commitment included Ambassador Joshua Sagi

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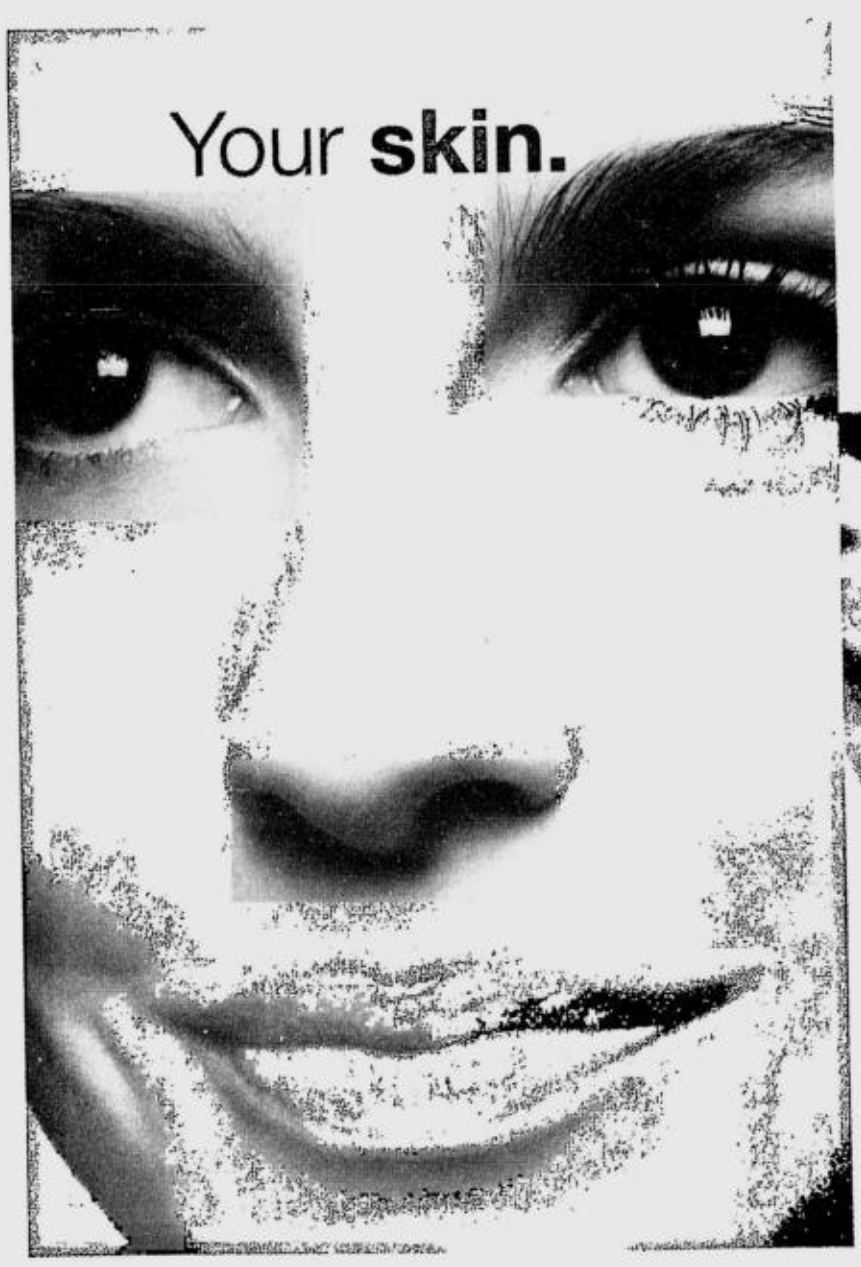

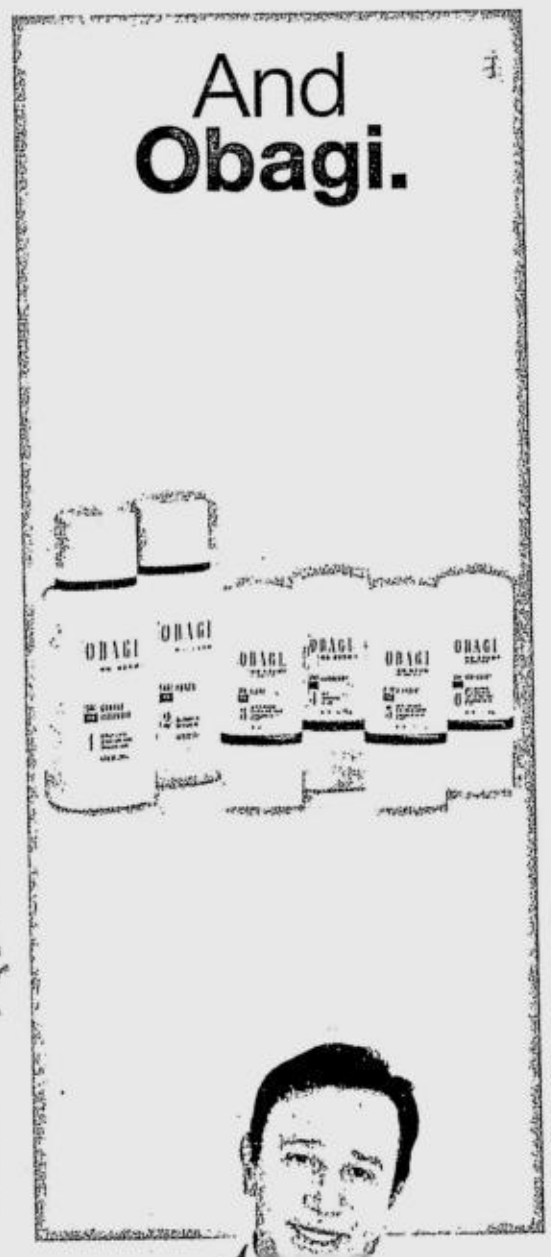

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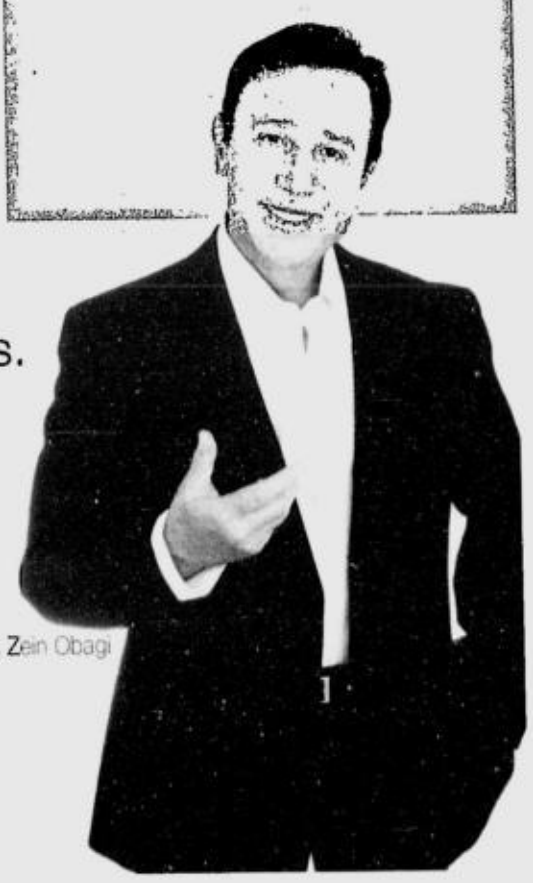

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EXECUTIVE editor of Asian Dragon, Louie Cruz, and Imelda Marcos

CHERRY and Ava Araw

CHAVIT Singson and Roquito Ablan

WORLD-CLASS violinist Jay Cayuca

A sweet affair to remember

DAVID Araw, Ferdie Sarfati and Carlo Araw

From page E1

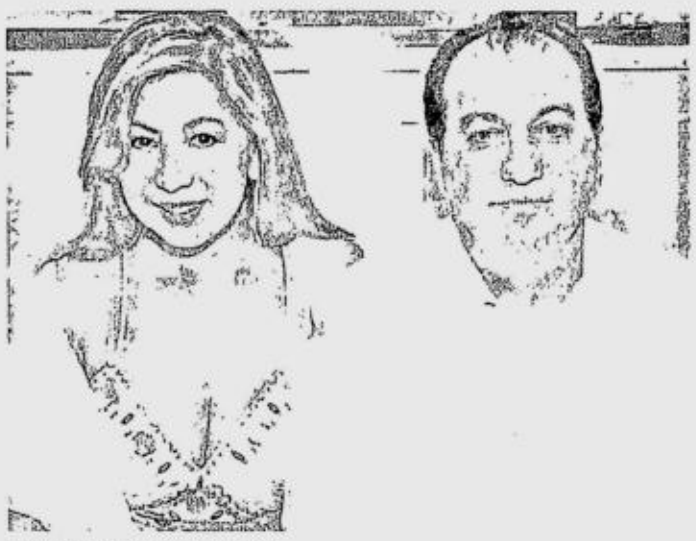
with his wife Hannah; former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos; former popular Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson; Rep. Roquito Ablan; energetic businesswoman Olivia Limpe Aw; my favorite publicist, off-the-shoulder Louie Cruz with official photographer of the newest glossy magazine to hit the stands, Asian Dragon, Sandro Mike Rieta; honorary consul Anette Ablan; Sam and Vivian Groskopf; brother of the groom Ferdie Sarfati who jetted in from Malaysia; Cherry Aw with daughter Ava and sons Carlo and David; Butch's only daughter Chunchin; Jovencito Zuño; Eduardo Armamente; Teta Buenafler; and Luzviminda Fernandez. They were just a dash of the other fun invitees, who were all looking *trés* cool in white, as the yacht sailed along Manila Bay to Sangley Point where the poignant ceremony took place, *palanggas*. Butch and Carina said their "I dos" all over again while golden sunset rays reflected and danced on the sea.

Aprés that, a super fun reception followed at the popular and breezy Sofitel Philippine Plaza, where 150 invitees were entertained. *Moi* commented other hotel guests might think we are attending a medical convention and not a wedding because of the all-white dress code. Meanwhile, Madame Imelda Marcos in good humor said, "The last time I wore white was when I was a virgin."

Cheryl Cosim hosted the evening program while Jay Cayuca left the guests on the edge of their seats while he serenaded them with "An Affair to Remember" and other masterpieces, dahlings. Other top entertainers were Raymond Lauchengco, Robert Seña and Ivy Violan. Their romantic musical numbers echoed messages of love and friendship, to the absolute delight of the invitees.

When it was the bride's turn to say a little something, Carina said, "This is exactly what we both wanted, Butch and I, that this be a celebration of true friendship, rather than merely a celebration of our love. Our friends have always been such a big part of our life." This elicited great applause from the guests, who didn't waste time and dashed to the dance floor to dance, dance and dance some more, till the night was rocked away by the dawn, dahlings.

To Butch and Carina, here's to the Silver! Cheers, *palanggas*!


VIVIAN and Sam Groskopf

ANNETTE Coronel

SANDRO Mike Rieta

POALA Belle Sarfati

ABS-CBN broadcaster Sheryl Cosim

RAYMOND Lauchengco

OLIVIA Limpe Aw

ROBERT Seña and Ivy Violan

ABDUL and Anette Ablan

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

SANCHEZ-ESTABILLO

Vijhomar R. Sanchez, son of **Vicente Jr.** and **Caridad Sanchez**, wed recently **Carissa A. Estabillo**, daughter of **Benjamin** and **Carmelita Estabillo**, at Oasis Garden, Aurora Boulevard, San Juan City. Reception was held at Oasis Pavilion.

BAUTISTA-BISENIO

Elmer Glenn Bautista, son of **Lauro** and **Marcela Bautista**, will wed **Mary Hazel Bisenio**, daughter of **Danilo** and **Elsie Bisenio**, Dec. 8 at Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, Quezon City. Reception will be held at The Mango Farm, Antipolo.

BEA-ORLINA

Ronald A. Bea, son of **Restituto** and **Eleanor Bea** (deceased), wed **Mayette Mallari Orlina**, daughter of **Reynaldo** and **Alma Orlina**, at St. Joseph Church, Project 3, QC. Reception followed at Jade Valley Cantonese Cuisine.

REDOBAN-LINGAT

John T. Redoban, son of **Victorino** and **Felisa** (deceased) **Redoban**, will tie the knot with **Emily N. Lingat**, daughter of **Servillano** (deceased) and **Corazon Lingat**, Dec. 30 at Sacred Heart Parish Church, San Fernando City. Reception will be at Unichef's Teresa's Hall in Angeles City.

VILLANUEVA DEBUT

Joan Kristine "Teetin" J. Villanueva, daughter of Dr. **Noel** and Dr. **Ninfa Villanueva** of Davao City, celebrated her 18th birthday at The Top of the Apo, Apo View Hotel, Davao City. She is a sophomore BS Biology student at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC. **Jan** of Limited designed her gown.

CLEOFE DEBUT

Tara Denise Cleofe, daughter of **Noel** and **Odette Cleofe**, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance Nov. 24 at the Hotel Pontefino Tent, Batangas City. **Eric Pineda** designed the gown in red and teal-blue silk dupioni and chiffon. The corset top is embellished with hand-pleated petals, pailletes and rhinestones. Noodle straps in various lengths edged with teardrop crystals and a tiara of Swarovski crystals complete the ensemble.

SHOPPERS and diners have one more reason to linger at Eastwood City this November, as it becomes a haven for people and divination consultants alike during the 6th Psychics' Festival.

Learn about your future

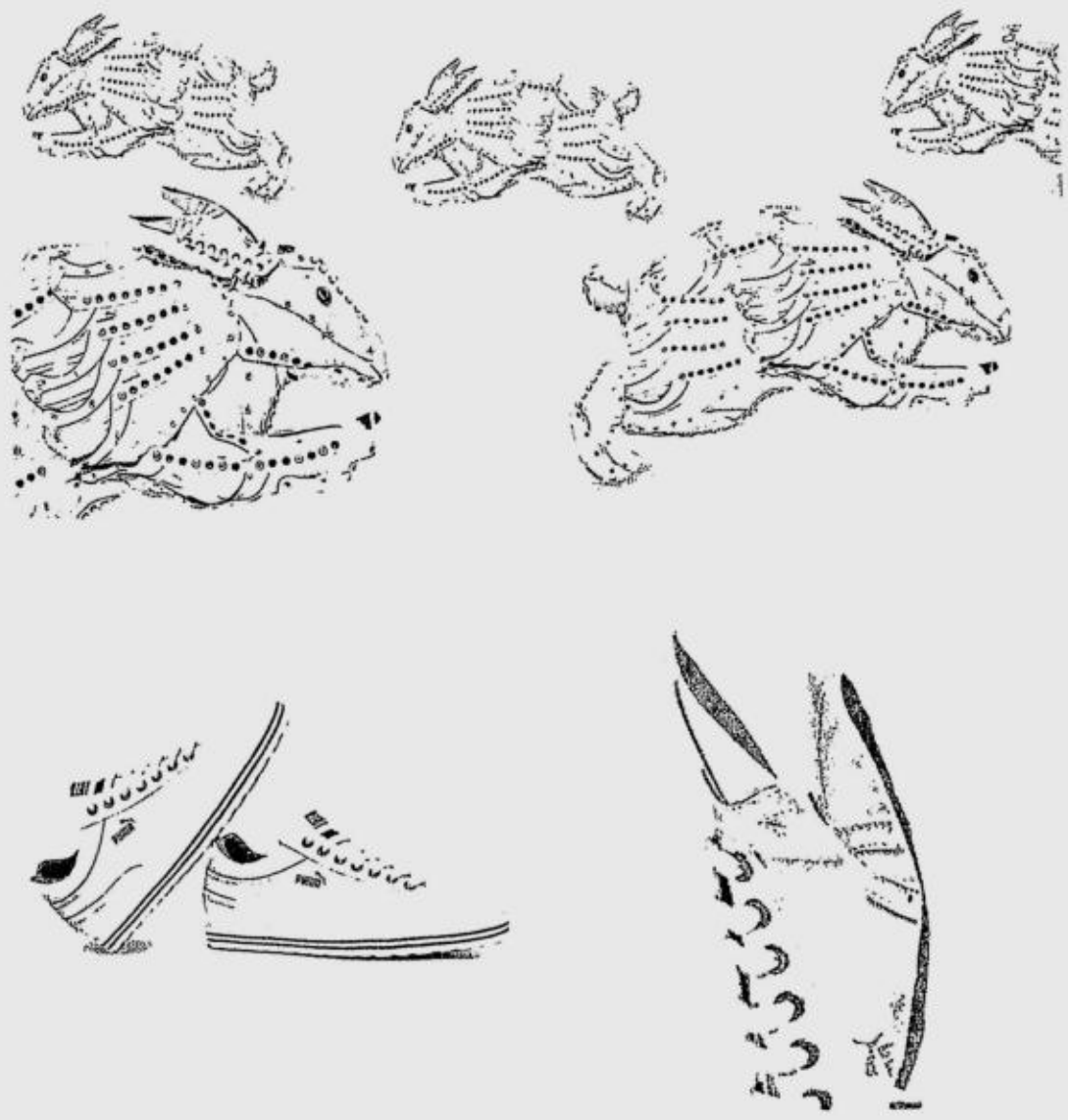
A PSYCHICS' FESTIVAL IS ongoing at Eastwood City. It ends Nov. 14.

Every evening, Eastwood City shoppers and diners can consult experts on what the future holds for them.

Among the methods for fortune-telling available are Saiwala, the very popular tarot and mystical Angel cards. Customers can also submit to palm reading, numerology and aura readings. Dream interpretation and Astrology are also available.

Eastwood City has brought renowned French tarot readers Marc Pinchart and Danielle Boucard for this year's festival. They are using the ancient tarot of Marseilles, a precise reproduction of the historic Tarot de Marseilles created in 1760 by Nicholas Conver.

They are also holding an exhibit of divine-inspired paintings and holding a public seminar on the making of these paintings (0917-8EWCITY).



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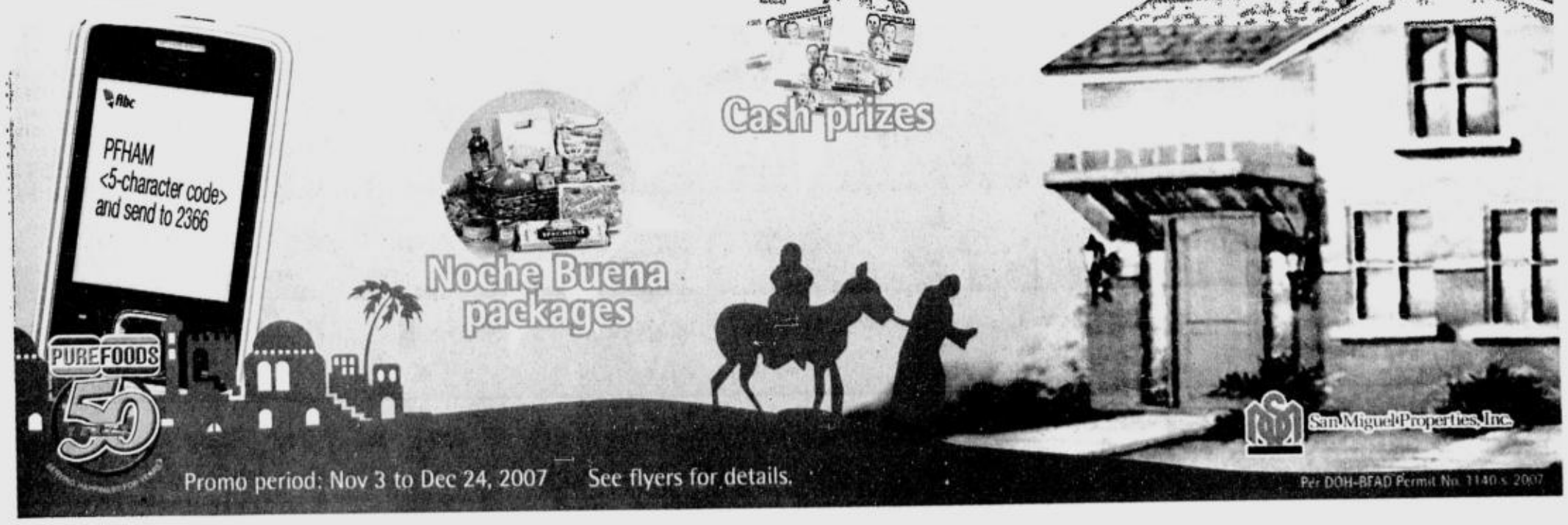


Promo period: Nov 3 to Dec 24, 2007 See flyers for details.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1140 s. 2007

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Tuguegarao celebrates archbishop's 75th birthday

I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT. Ten bishops and 70 priests concelebrated High Mass last month for the 75th birthday of Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan at the Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Tuguegarao.

With the church filled to capacity and President Macapagal-Arroyo in attendance, the event could certainly be one of the most memorable in Cagayan history.

The Holy Father was represented by two secretaries of the Papal Nuncio Most Rev. Joseph Adams—Fr. Steffano and Msgr. Giorgio. The regional vicar of the Opus Dei in the Philippines, Msgr. Joseph Duran, was there with Fr. Carlos Estrada, an Opus Dei priest.

Archbishop Talamayan's nephew Joe Perez flew from Arlington, Virginia, United States. His best friend, lawyer Nicolas Pagalilaun, father of actor-businessman Orestes Ojeda, came all the way from Canada. His brother, retired Judge Ernesto Talamayan, represented his sisters who live in the US.

It was a glorious day, a blessed day made more special by the singing of the Coro de San Jacinto and the St. Paul University Chorale with Fr. Rannie Aquino, musical director, conducting.

Dr. Shamon Abraham, chair of the Council of the Methodist Church in Tuguegarao, said, "Archbishop Talamayan is a unifying force not only among the people of Cagayan but also (among those of) various religious persuasions."

Fitting legacy

The archbishop's book "In Aedificacionem Corporis Christi" or "Building the Body of Christ" in English is a fitting legacy to Cagayanons and all God-fearing people.

It is a collection of his selected homilies, writings and invocations in his 23 years as archbishop of Cagayan and 50 years as priest.

The book was launched at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center.

Each reading could be a reflection for prayer, according to Ofelia Poblete of Imprenta de San José who printed the book. The autobiography is a testament to his faithfulness to the Lord. His name, "Diosdado," is Spanish for God-given. The book also brings us to the places of the archbishop's ministry.

To buy the book, text Fr. Fredel Agatep, book editor, at 0917-8150074 or call the archbishop's residence at 078-8441663.

Concert

José Mari Chan, a good friend of Archbishop Talamayan, will sing at a post-birthday dinner on Nov. 18 at the Camp Aguinaldo Officers' Club. Mass will be at 5:30 p.m.

Organized by the Devotees of Nuestra Señora de Piat Foundation headed by Gen. Edgar Aglipay, the event aims to raise funds for the Haven for Retired Priests in Solana, Cagayan. For tickets, text 0917-8992521. Cristina Ponce Enrile, soprano, will give a special number.

New priests

Five deacons—Rev. Jelito Caparas, EHM; Rev. Glenn Mercado, EHM; Fr. Johmes Faderanga, EHM; and Rev. Andres Semana Jr. and Rev. Orlando Mallillin, diocesan priests—were recently ordained priests at the Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Piat in Cagayan. It was part of the weeklong celebration of the birthday of Archbishop Talamayan. The choir sang the Litany of the Saints.

EHM is Eucharistic Healers of Mary. It was founded by Archbishop Talamayan who wanted an order of priests to care for sick old priests, hear their last confession and anoint them.

Prayer booklet

To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, Filipino visionary Nora Luna and Mindo Ilagan gave away the prayer booklet "Pray! Pray! Pray!"

Compiled from approved sources, a simpler version of the booklet is available. Write to Nora at 25 San Gregorio St., Magallanes Village, Makati or call 8525485. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The wedding anniversary Mass at the St. Alphonsus Ligouri Church was officiated by Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles who talked about the importance of praying the Rosary. Fr. James Reuter, SJ, was present making the event more blessed. Now 93, Fr. Reuter is Nora's spiritual director. He wrote the foreword to Nora's five-volume "Jesus Crucified, Cover Me with Your Precious Blood."

The books contain messages Nora received from Jesus and Mary through inner locution since March 4, 1994.

Nora set up the Prayer Power of the Philippines Movement Foundation that aims to spread prayers not only in the Philippines, but also throughout the world.

NORA Ilagan with Fr. Benny Tuazon, Fr. James Reuter, her husband Mindo Ilagan and Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles

ARCHBISHOP Diosdado Talamayan hands his book to Carmen Carag of the Devotees of the Nuestra Señora de Piat Foundation.

She says, "Let us pray together to be away from what is evil and from man-made and natural calamities."

Gamblers Anonymous

Gamblers Anonymous meets at the Aloha Hotel coffee shop on Roxas Blvd. every Sunday at 4 p.m. Anyone with a gambling problem is welcome.

Pastries for the Vatican

Boy Ponce, who runs Pasteleria Española, says when his family's pastry shop was on Aguila Street near Malacañang, then First Lady Imelda Marcos ordered boxes and boxes of Palilios de Milan to bring to the Vatican. The Papal Nuncio at the time also ordered the pastry for the Vatican.

Pasteleria Española is now at 66 Aguirre St., BF Homes, Parañaque. Call 8073136. Boy's mother, Amanda Bermachea Ponce, 83, still supervises the pastry shop.

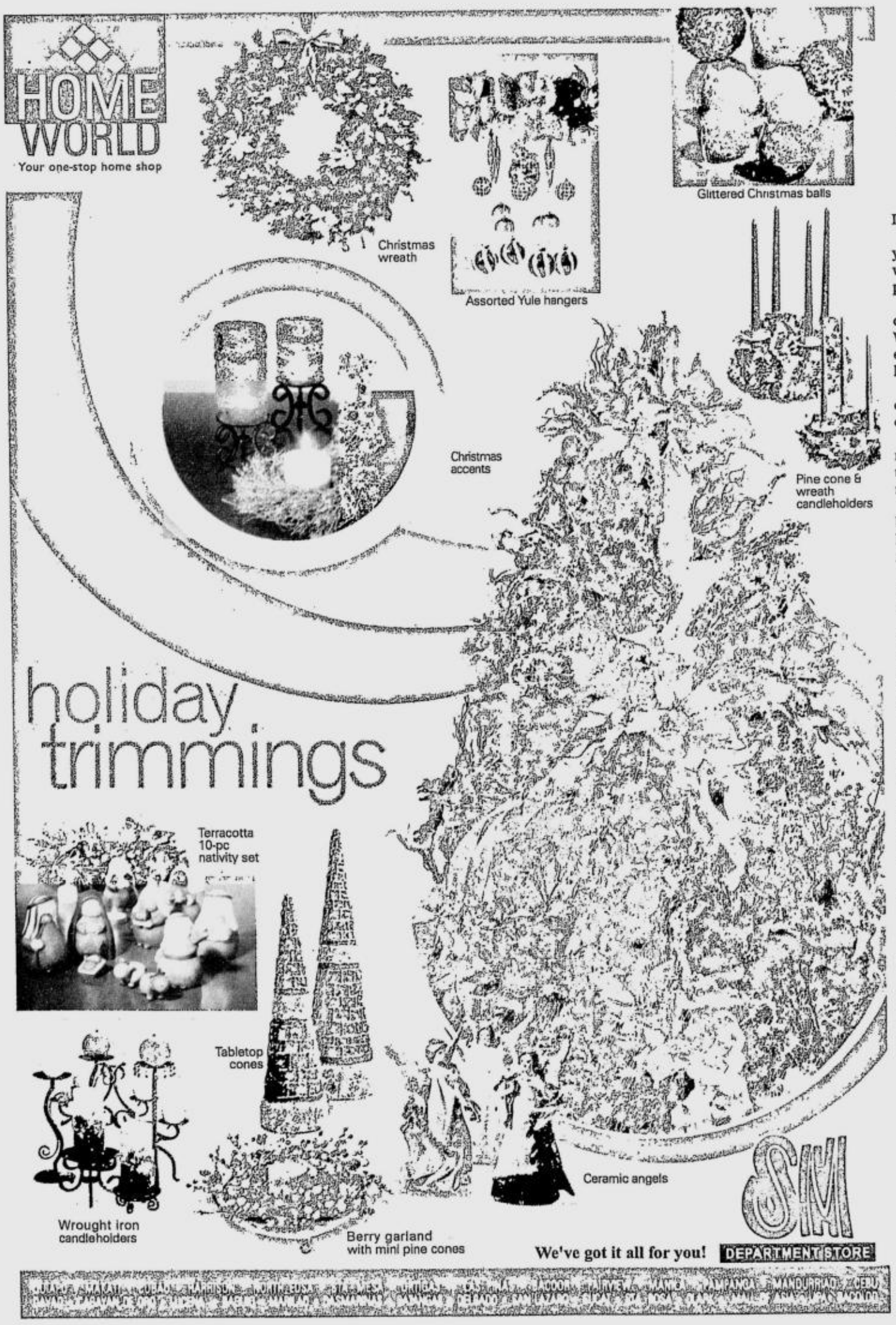
The Ponce family has a special devotion to Nuestra Señora de Verdad y Justicia. They bring her icon to the annual Marian procession in Intramuros on the first Sunday of December.

Feast day

Cavite City celebrates today the feast day of Virgen de la Soledad de Porta Vaga. Masses will be said at San Roque Church where the Virgin is enshrined.

The icon was enthroned in 1692 at the Ermita dela Soledad in Cavite Puerto.

A two-week celebration in 1992 organized by the late Tony Nazareno and his friends marked the 300th year of the enthronement.



EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Husband keeps her on a tight budget

DEAR EMILY,

I have been married for five years now. I had a job when we were still in the Philippines.

My problem is my husband does not give me his earnings. What he gives me is just enough to pay for our household bills.

I am not working now because I have to take care of our two kids.

He does not give me extra money. He pays all the bills through the bank ATM (automated teller machine).

Sometimes when I want to buy something for myself, I have to keep asking him for money.

Most of the time he will grill me, asking if I really need the money or just want it.

When we went back to the Philippines for a vacation, I was able to buy groceries but did not have the freedom to buy the girl stuff I wanted like bags, shoes, dresses.

When I asked for money to get a haircut, he only gave me P500! Whatever he earns is all in his name.

We do not even have a joint account. This is all contrary to what we agreed upon before we migrated to the United States.

What can I do? This is really bothering me.

PROBLEMATIC WIFE

My, my, financial hardship in the land of milk and honey!

Was your husband ever traumatized by your spending history while you were still in the Philippines? Did you have any go-for-broke retail therapy in the past? Was he never ever generous with you?

It is hard to believe that you have not been able to partake of his largesse—ever? This current state of affair must have been prompted by something awful somewhere once upon a time.

Or was he always a tightwad even when you were dating? He could have been a closet Scrooge but you just did not notice it then because you had your own money to spend.

It is unhealthy to sulk at home because you have a stingy husband. Instead of banging your head against the wall and asking those unanswerable why's over and over again, there must be a million and one profitable things you can start at home.

This may be heaven's way of making you open up and explore those little windows of opportunity—after being barred by your husband from his account.

Earn your own money. Do something in your house if you cannot leave your little kids yet. Start with baby-sitting in your neighborhood. That is tax-free income!

Or, if you have the inclination, start simple catering for friends who do not have time to cook dinner after office hours.

Open your mind and just be creative. This may seem like small potatoes but, hey, you never know!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Log on to www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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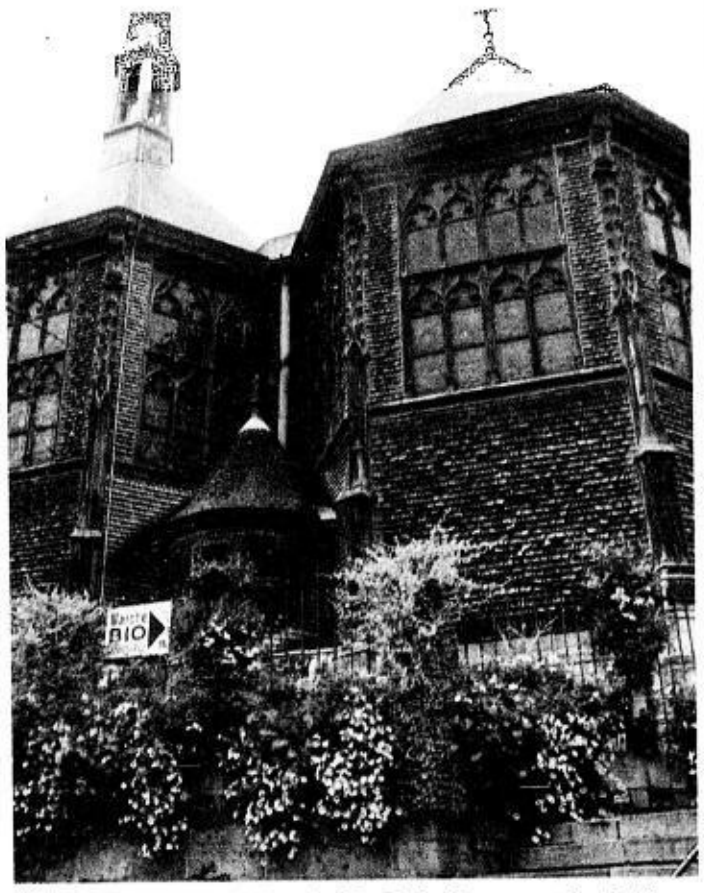
Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Northwestern France in full flower

Normandy, particularly the towns of Deauville, Honfleur and Lisieux, offers a rich feast of scenic, historic delights



HONFLEUR'S all-wood Church of St. Catherine, except for the floor and in-between portions made of bricks

Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

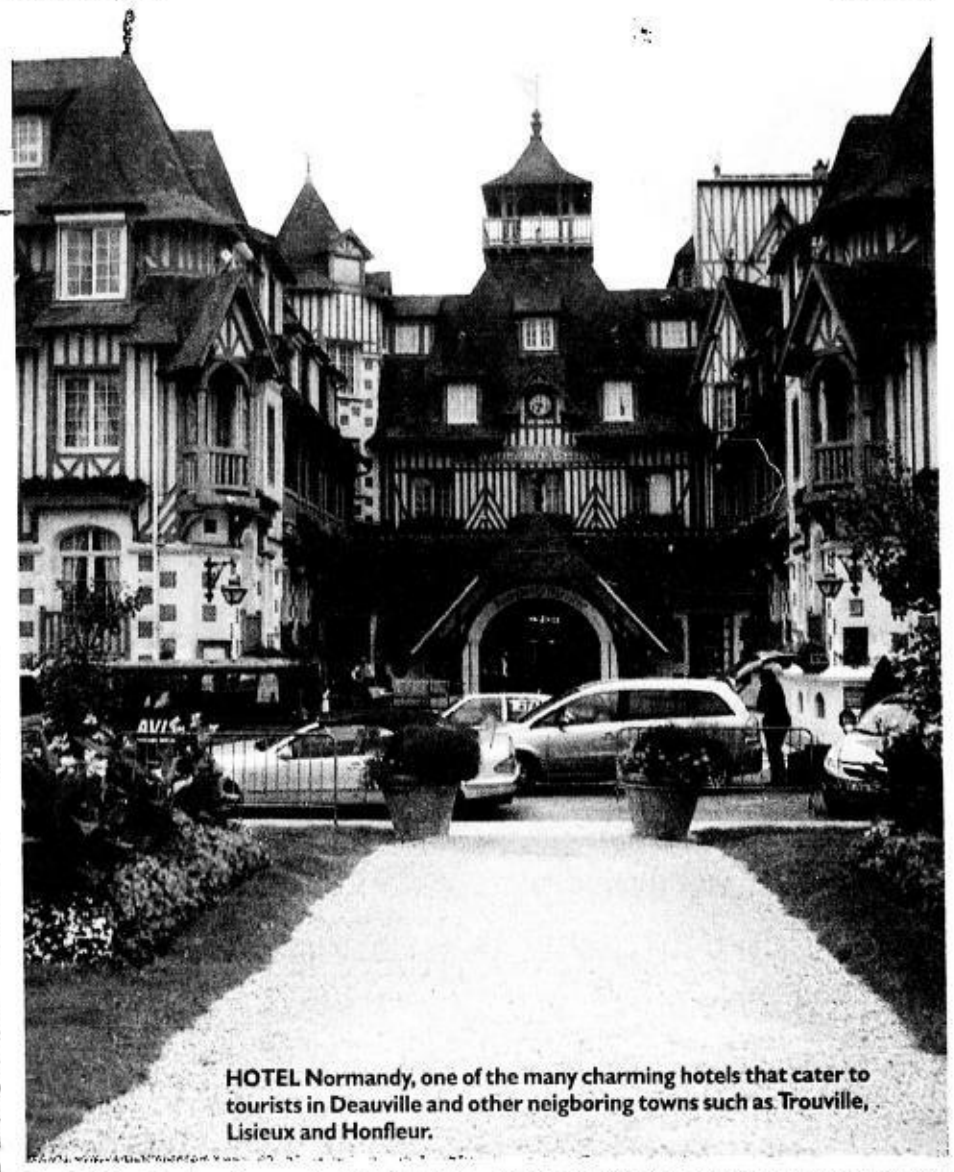
WE MISSED GEORGE Clooney, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie by a few days, but Therese Martin of Lisieux gladly "stayed" behind to welcome us.

Therese Martin, of course, is better known to countless Catholic devotees as St. Therese of the Child Jesus. What do a worldly actress like Jolie and a well-loved paragon of humility like St. Therese have in common?

For a brief moment in early September, these two iconic women were among the many attractions that drew locals and foreigners alike to Normandy—particularly to the towns of Deauville, Honfleur and Lisieux—a scenic region in northwestern France (approximately two hours away from Paris by car), which is also famous for a number of history-defining wars and battles, including the Hundred Years' War (1338-1453) and, of course, the Battle of Normandy (1944).

Both historical events have been immortalized in countless books and films over the decades. Interestingly, France's long-running war with England for possession of Normandy and other territories during the 14th to the 15th centuries produced an earlier icon of freedom, bravery and humility for the Catholic Church as well as for the French nation: St. Joan of Arc.

Of more recent vintage, Steven Spielberg's film, "Saving Private Ryan," perhaps best provided us with a realistic, if gory account, of the Battle of Normandy, which unfolded during the dying days of World War II as the Allies, led by the Americans, started liberating the rest of occupied Europe from the Germans, with Normandy as the largest and most famous landing point.



HOTEL Normandy, one of the many charming hotels that cater to tourists in Deauville and other neigboring towns such as Trouville, Lisieux and Honfleur.

For WWII buffs, Normandy offers regular guided tours to the tiny town of Bayeux, reportedly a perfect place to explore the landing beaches as well as the Caen War Memorial. The area around Bayeux also features a number of monuments, museums, bunkers and cemeteries commemorating the Battle of Normandy.

Thanks to popular images as well as historical accounts, not a few ignorant souls (including myself) normally associate Normandy with nothing more than a long stretch of sandy beach with rocky formations that served as makeshift encampments for the Germans. Alas, such stereotypical images are just but a fraction of the entire range of attractions the region has to offer.

Apart from being famous for its golf courses, polo grounds, racetracks, casinos and luxury hotels, Deauville is dubbed by locals as a glamorous resort town along the famed "Flower Coast."

No empty boast

Glamour, of course, is no empty boast since many of these charming but high-end establishments cater to some of Europe's rich and famous. It also owes to the fact that, just like Cannes, Deauville holds an annual film festival featuring some of the world's hottest stars in attendance.

It was during its recent edition that celebrity watchers feasted their eyes on Clooney and

NORTHWESTERN / F3

Angel
CONdensada
CON todo SARAP!
New Angel
CONDENSADA
SWEETENED CONDENSED CREAMER
Net Content 380g
BEST for Fruit Salad & other Desserts
Para sa akin, the best CONdensada!

TRAVEL Club group CEO Jimmy Thai, Francis Kong, Meann Santos, Willy Sy and Jerry Sy

TRAVEL Club endorser couple Jeena and Ernie Lopez

DISCOVERY Shores' excellent crew. Resident manager Cesar Fernandez, Emman Rivera, GM Jun Parreno Jr., Victor Ortega and Randy Salvador

Paradise on earth, and then some

Discovery Shores Boracay welcomes its guests with a foot massage to help them settle into their rooms, which are iPod-ready and Wi-Fi-enabled. With all this, you can chill out in bed all day!

THE PICTURE Company owners Eileen and Vincent Grey

VACATIONING beauties Vicky Claparols, Bianca Santos and Nona Lobregat

PRETTY pregnant mom Nannette Po with son Ganden

CHEF Nikki and Marivi Camcam

KAMISETA owners Gunn and Cris Roque

CEBU Pacific CEO Lance Gokongwei

DISCOVERING THE BLISSFUL state of "happily ever after" is a wondrous thing! Except "ever after" is a long time, so for most of us a long weekend celebration or even a short but deep meditation can be enough to get us to a state of nirvana.

And whether we go via the long or the short route, we all deserve to be truly happy, a luxury we should all enjoy at least once in our lives.

Paradise on earth can be found in our very own Boracay Island. And total pampering perfection can be found in Discovery Shores, the ultimate, fabulous holiday experience.

I was lucky enough to experience Discovery recently, as I headed to Bora for my first post-"Celebrity Duets" sea-and-sun Halloween celebration, on an invitation from Emphasis Salon's top stylist **Victor Ortega**. The ever-hardworking Victor recently opened his namesake salon right in the heart of the island.

As I checked in at the Asian Spirit counter, I was not surprised when I was told that my luggage was overweight. I knew the meager 10-kilo allowance would never be enough for my Halloween costumes, makeup, accessories and other gadgets.

Luckily the bags themselves were feather-light and expandable. I recently found the Travel Club in Tri-Noma, and its wide selection of different travel cases and the generous layout of the shop made for a joyful shopping experience. I even found water-resistant suitcases, just the thing for traveling to Bora.

Discovery Shores' guests are ferried to and from the hotel in an air-conditioned shuttle, complete with a boat stewardess. The service even includes cold towels and drinks, much more than what many low-fare airlines are giving these days. The boat stewardess also demonstrated putting on the life jacket. Which made me think—Why shouldn't a flight stewardess demonstrate the use of a parachute instead?

Personalized touches

I was still mulling that over when resort GM **Jun Parreno Jr.** came over to welcome our group to the hotel. Jun greets every guest and makes sure personalized touches are added to the room to make the stay even more enjoyable. And I mean personalized!

Aside from the usual fruits, chocolates and wine, I had a congratulatory banner for "Celebrity Duets"; a copy of the latest Metro Society with **Mikee Jaworski**, **Diether Ocampo** and me on the cover; stationery with my name on it; and—top this—pillows monogrammed with my name. Jun's attention to detail is impeccable.

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

As part of the welcome, you get a foot massage to help you settle into your room, which is iPod-ready and Wifi-enabled. With all this, you can chill out in bed all day!

I can just imagine Jun at a meeting with his fellow GMs from the Small Luxury Hotels of the World, of which Discovery Suites is a member. Some guy talks about their welcome drink and Jun launches into that long list I just went through. What a great way to fly the Philippine flag!

Halloween is always an extra grand celebration for me, since I love costumes. The Discovery Shores' staff prepared scary booths gruesomely inspired by the horror movie "Hostel."

Each department was given a booth they had to dress up with disgusting costumes and creative set design, the better to horrify daring guests with. It was tough to decide on a winner, because the staff all performed so well with blood-curling screams and even horrible stenches to complete each booth.

Vacationing Cebu Pacific CEO **Lance Gokongwei** was also impressed with the presentations. He told me his airline will soon fly to Caticlan Airport with bigger planes that can land on short runways. Competition can only be good for vacationers, especially with Cebu Pacific's vaunted P1 fare promotions.

Bora was filled with an assortment of ghastly creatures, amazing feathered showgirls and drag queens. The Summer Place Bar had a costume contest, which I was asked to judge again. Hmm. Maybe organizers don't want me to compete in these costume contests!

Next year, I want to spend Halloween in Discovery Shores again. With the hotel's delicious buffets, continuous food service in the beach and pool, special fun activities for kids and the all-important videoke room, who can ask for anything more? Check out www.discoveryshoresboracay.com.

Excellent Beyoncé

Back in the city, I was ready for my highlight of the week, the" Beyoncé Experience Concert" at The Fort.

Once again, MTV Philippines came up with a winner, just as it did with **Christina Aguilera** earlier this year. The Globe-presented concert was packed and the multitude was tremendously entertained.

Beyoncé's 69-member ensemble flew in using their own private plane and checked in at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. In fact, new fave nightspot Martinis Bar was filled with Beyoncé dancers and band members the day before the concert.

I was going to take my husband **Dennis** to see Beyoncé, but his ticket was commandeered by our daughter **Annika**. Too bad for the hubby, as the sexy singer was in excellent form and voice all night.

To make up for missing Beyoncé, Dennis can just take me shopping at Bazaar with a Heart, the annual Rotary Club of Makati bazaar, running all day today at the Hotel Inter-Continental Ballroom.

Now on its 20th year, Bazaar with a Heart is a great way to shop and serve—as the proceeds go to Rotary's many projects like medical missions, Save the Eye Outreach program and reforestation of the La Mesa Watershed.

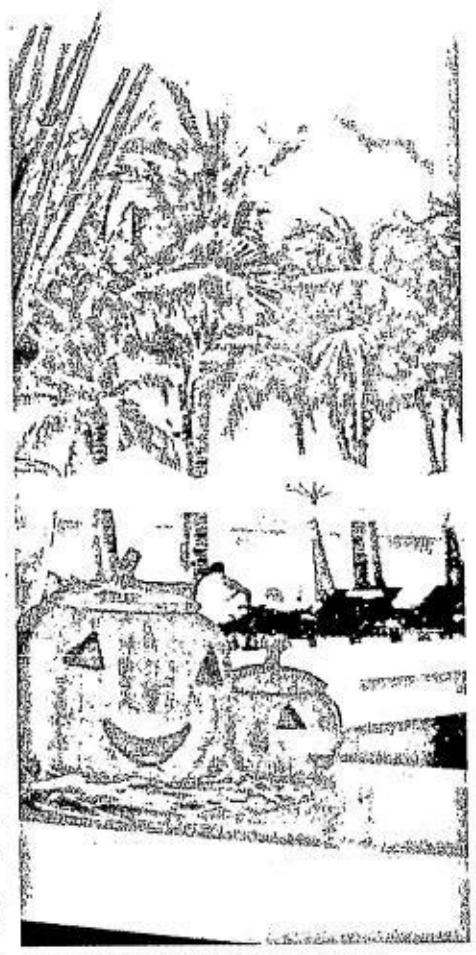
Or, perhaps, we can drop by "Art in the Park" at Velasquez Park, Salcedo Village, Makati, on Nov. 17.

Here Dennis can buy me some fancy, one-of-a-kind, yet affordable artworks. Again, it's shopping with a cause, as proceeds support the Museum Foundation's programs to help the National Museum.

Call **Patricia Limon** or **Elvie Magpayo** of the Museum Foundation of the Philippines at 4042685 or e-mail info@museumfoundationph.org.

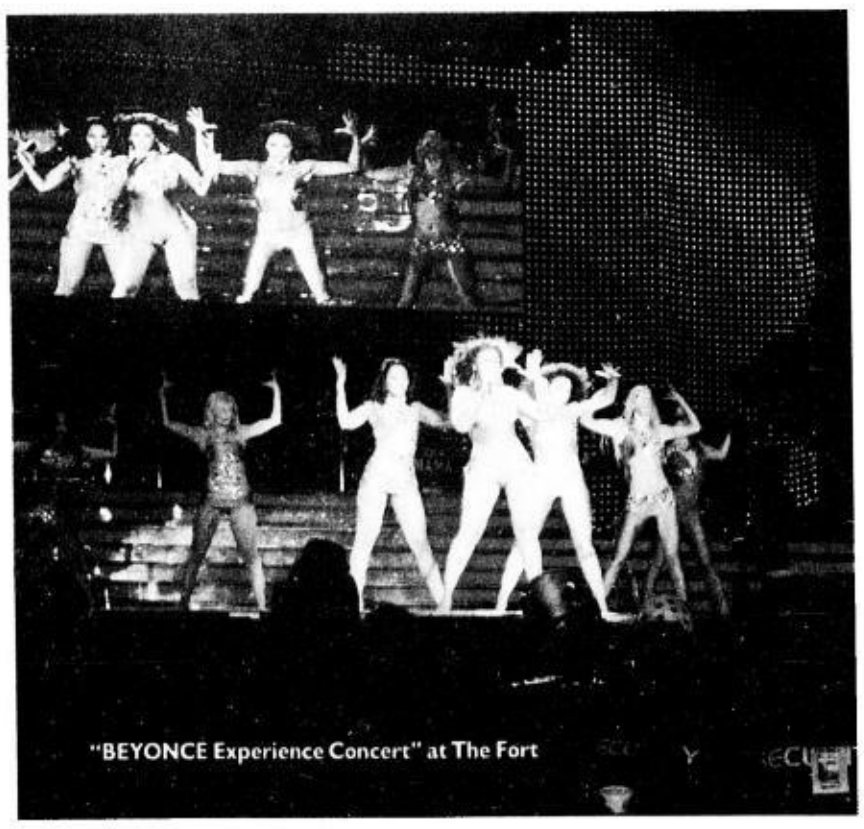
With so many activities benefiting so many projects, I can only hope that there will be more "happily ever afters" for so many more people in the weeks ahead.

E-mail the author at seaprincess @inquirer.com.ph.


HALLOWEEN decor at Sands Bar on Discovery Shores

WINNERS Jen Oquiana of housekeeping and Nonoy Rodriguez of F&B-kitchen

DISCOVERY Shores staff members on Halloween night


"BEYONCE Experience Concert" at The Fort

CELEBRITY friends Raymond Gutierrez, Rufa Mae Quinto, Ruffa Gutierrez and Erik Santos

CONCERTUS Inc PR Bambi Rivera-Verzo

SHOW-BIZ giant Martin Nievera with Francine Prieto and Philip Cu-unjieng

Globe head SME business group Maridol and Raul Ylanan

MTV Philippines head Francis Lumen and Josephine del Gallego

MOBILE phone king Alfred and Laarnie Chong

Northwestern France

From page F1

the "Jolie-Pitts."

Bruno, our singing tour guide, was impressed by the degree of publicity the couple generated. For a week or so in September, show-biz denizens—of varying celebrity wattage—and their handlers were a common sight in Deauville, as are members of the paparazzi who shadowed the stars' every move.

Separated from Deauville by the Touques River, Trouville, its twin city, is a more sedate place that, despite the passage of time, has remained primarily a fishing village.

Honfleur, another neighboring town, is more like Trouville than Deauville in character. Dubbed by the region's historians as the birthplace of impressionist paintings, Honfleur once lured such artistic giants as Monet and Baudelaire to soak up its postcard-pretty sites.

Narrow, cobbled streets, open-air cafés and intimate plazas add to Honfleur's charm, as are small houses with wooden-tiled roofs and pocket gardens and street markets selling all sorts of knickknacks, including the region's finest wines and cheeses.

Because of its proximity to the sea, Honfleur, apart from being a fishing village, has evolved over the centuries as one of the region's chief harbors with narrow timber houses lining up its long coast, just like in Amsterdam.

At one point in its history, the town was also into salt mining. Remnants of the dead industry can still be seen in abandoned but well-maintained warehouses that used to house sacks upon sacks of salt, then considered a precious commodity before spices and the wonders of refrigeration became readily available in Europe.

One of the most lasting and most impressive monuments to its inhabitants' affinity to the sea is the wooden church of St. Catherine. First built in 1496 and later expanded over the centuries as Honfleur's population grew, the church is made primarily of wood except for the marble floor and some in-between portions covered in bricks.

Don't be surprised if the church's vaulted ceiling, originally consisting of a single nave before it became two, looks uncannily similar to a boat's upturned hull. Actually, it is.

When nearly every man in Honfleur was busy fighting the English, the only able-bodied citizens who were capable of doing hard, manual labor (this happened centuries before women's lib) were fishermen and boat makers.

A PART of St. Therese's arm, including her elbow, is now enshrined as a relic in the basilica named after her honor in Lisieux. To the right of the relic is the saint's photograph as a child.

ALTHOUGH the Honfleur church isn't dedicated to her but to St. Catherine, a picture of St. Therese of Lisieux holds a special place in the altar.

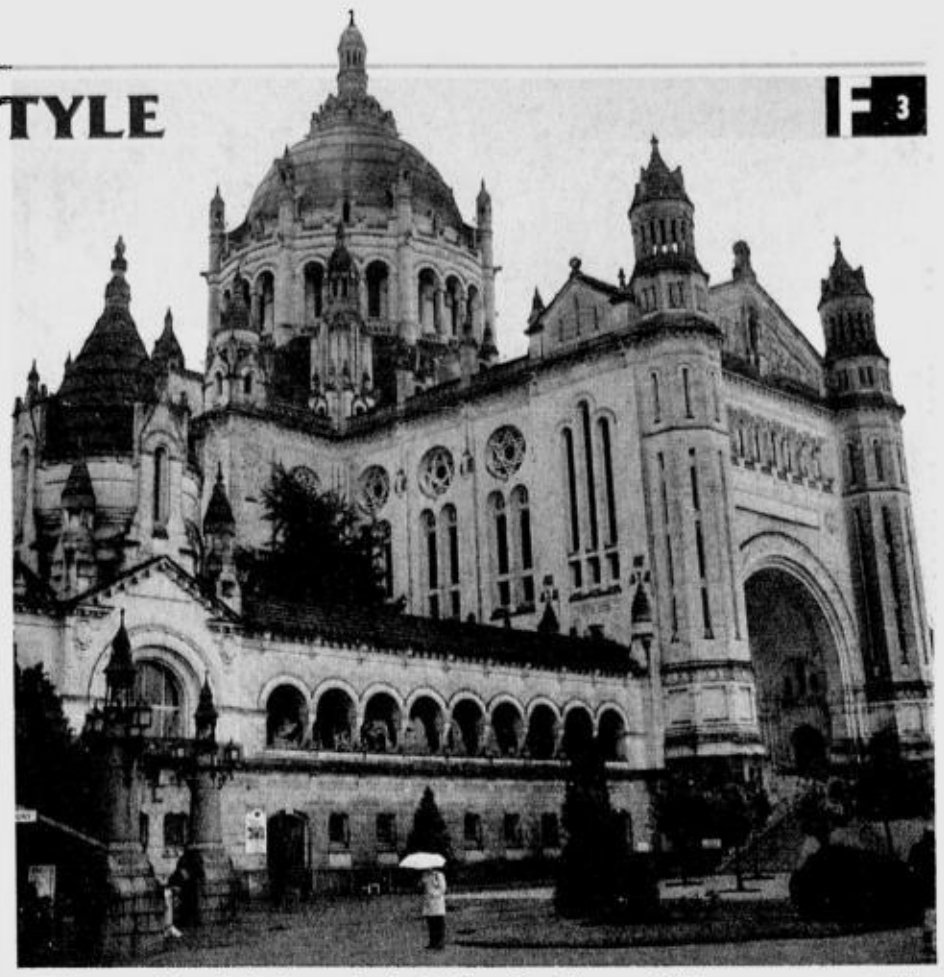
Since France was at war with its neighbor across the Channel, the only readily available material back then was timber from the nearby Touques forest. The seafarers eventually agreed to build a church the best way they knew how. Surprisingly, the structure (thanks to regular upkeep, of course) has survived the tumultuous French Revolution and the even bloodier World War II.

Thus, apart from being a testament to the town's marine heritage, St. Catherine Church has become an oddity in a continent famous for its huge and elaborate Christian churches made of steel and concrete.

Ideal place

Should you find yourself hungry after all the sightseeing, one of the most ideal places to have a slow, pleasant lunch of juicy steaks and salmons, aged cheeses as well as the finest French wines and apple cider is at the Calvados Boulard Distillery, a wine-producing area which features such restaurants as the Bistro d' Antan.

We found ourselves enjoying the bistro's offerings literally inside huge oak barrels that were reconfigured into cozy banquets. Thanks to flattering mood lighting, minor facial imperfections as well as hints of redness resulting from one too many glasses of wine were toned down.



AFTER several decades in the works, the Basilica of St. Therese of Lisieux was consecrated in her honor in 1954. The saint was declared a Doctor of the Church by the late Pope John Paul II in 1997.

Finally, a tour of Normandy won't be complete without visiting one of its most famous daughters' shrine and basilica in Lisieux (30 minutes or so away from our hotel in Deauville). This was where St. Therese of the Child Jesus grew up (she was born in nearby Alencon) and later became a Carmelite nun.

She died at the young age of 24, but the impact of her life and teachings (as embodied in her "Little Way") on the Catholic world was such that even his Holiness, the late Pope John Paul II, a devotee of the saint, proclaimed her a "Doctor of the Church" in 1997.

Such a distinction earned her a place alongside heavyweights from earlier times such as Saints Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Avila.

The house were the young Therese grew up, including articles of clothing, furniture pieces and toys from her childhood, has been turned into a shrine run by the Carmelites. A huge basilica finished in 1954 and soon after consecrated in her honor is located a short distance away from the shrine.

It was already drizzling even when we were in the shrine. The drizzle turned to rain as we made our way to the basilica, but none of us seemed to mind. If it was the saint's way of welcoming us, then by all means let it pour!

Apart from the intricate mosaic tiles depicting various milestones in St. Therese's short but eventful life, the basilica houses one of the saint's relics: a piece of bone from one or her elbows.

While most of us headed for Paris to catch an early morning flight the next day, a handful stayed behind in Deauville and drove back later in the day to Lisieux to participate in an afternoon procession in honor of St. Therese's feast day.

Indeed, between Angie's plump lips and Therese's barely recognizable elbow, the latter proved to be a more relevant draw to this group of Filipinos, who didn't mind staying a day longer to honor the memory of a famous Frenchwoman and a beloved daughter of the Church.

Travel Briefs

Laguna-Quezon tour

Inscribe Tours is organizing a tour of Laguna and Quezon starting Dec. 1. The tour starts with breakfast at the hillside Lagos del Sol in Cavinti that offers a breathtaking view of Lake Caliraya. Then the tour moves to Quezon, stopping first at Kamay ni Hesus in Lukban with its giant grotto healing priest Fr. Joey Faller. Last stop will be San Pablo City. Those wanting to discover southern Mindanao can join the Camiguin-Cagayan de Oro tour package Nov. 24-28. Call 5758370, 8405912.

Cordillera's best

Festival Supermall presents Impakabsat 2007, which aims to showcase the best of the Cordilleras, until today, Nov. 11 at the Mini Trade Hall. The trade fair also celebrates the Cordilleras' culture. It was started in 1991 by the Department of Trade and Industry-Cordillera Administrative Region (DTI-CAR). The first letters of Impakabsat stand for the region's six provinces; Ifugao, Mountain Province, Abra, Kalinga, Apayao, Benguet and the city of Baguio while *kabsat* is Ilokano for brother or sister. Festival Supermall in Filicity, Alabang is open 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 8503514 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.

Seminar packages

EGI Taft Tower Hotel, the newest businessman's choice, offers flexible Live-in/Live-out Seminar packages. Friendly and highly skilled personnel will help ensure the smooth conduct of seminars. The hotel has eight suites and 37 deluxe rooms. Overnight stays cost P1,950 net per person on twin-sharing basis. Half-day conferences cost P600-P950 net per person. Taft EGI Taft Tower Hotel is at the 29/F, EGI Taft Tower, 2339 Taft Ave., Malate, Manila. Call 5670651-58 or visit www.tafttowethotel.com.

North RP tourism fair

The Department of Tourism and the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies (Naitas) are holding the 2nd North Philippine International Tourism Fair, Nov. 23-25 in SM City Clark, Pampanga to develop tourism in the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Mountain Province, and Central Luzon. Meanwhile, DOT and NAITAS signed recently a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the staging of the 2nd Annual Philippine International Tourism Fair (PITF), June 27-29, at the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC). Secretary Joseph Ace Durano and Undersecretary Edu Jarque of DOT and Naitas president and PITF chair Angel Ramos Bognot and chair Robert Lim Joseph signed the MOA.

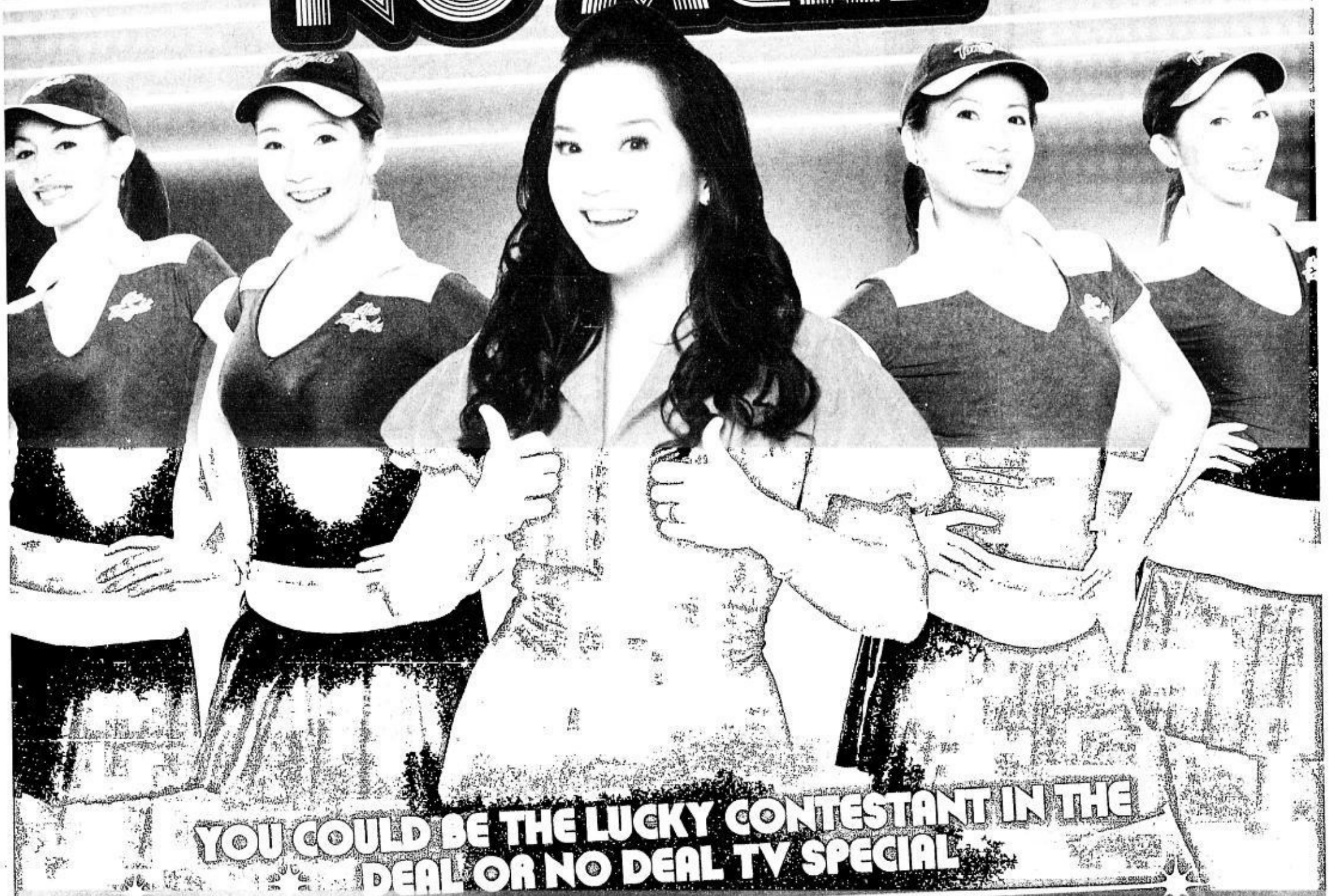
MOA-SIGNING at the Philippine Pavillion during the Tokyo Jata World Travel Fair with Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque; Tourism Secretary Robert "Ace" Durano; Naitas chair Robert Lim Joseph; and Naitas national president and PITF chair Angel Ramos Bognot. Witnessing the event are Naitas director William Pineda; MJTAHA president Teody Espallardo; Escaya Resort and Spa president Charles Lim; tourism director Dawnie Roa; Marriott Cebu Hotel general manager Roy Abraham; and Naitas director Shiela Johnson

TIFFANY & CO.

Tiffany Fringe necklace in eighteen karat yellow or white gold.

Rustan's
MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

JOIN McDonald's® MEAL OR NO MEAL



YOU COULD BE THE LUCKY CONTESTANT IN THE DEAL OR NO DEAL TV SPECIAL

You also get a chance to win P100,000 or be among 10 winners of P10,000.
Double your chances of winning when you upsize your drink with any chicken value meal.

love ko 'to™

McDonald's Meal or No Meal Promo Mechanics

1. Every purchase of any of the following McDonald's Chicken Value Meals (1pc. Chicken McDo with Rice, 1pc. Red Hot Chicken McDo with Rice, 3pc. Chicken McDo with Rice, 2pc. Red Hot Chicken McDo with Rice, 1pc. Chicken McDo with McSpaghetti, 1pc. Red Hot Chicken McDo with McSpaghetti, 3pc. Chicken McDo Happy Sharing Meal, 5pc. Red Hot Chicken McDo Happy Sharing Meal, 10pc. Chicken McDo Happy Sharing Meal, 10pc. Red Hot Chicken McDo Happy Sharing Meal, 5pc. Chicken McNuggets with Rice, 3pc. Chicken McNuggets with Rice, 5pc. Chicken McNuggets with McSpaghetti, 10pc. Chicken McNuggets Happy Sharing Meal, 1pc. Chicken McNuggets Happy Meal, and 1pc. Chicken McDo Happy Meal) entitles the customer to one (1) McDonald's Meal or No Meal Peel Apart Card.
2. Two (2) McDonald's Meal or No Meal Peel Apart Cards will be given every time you upsize your drink, when you order any Chicken Value Meal.
3. The promo will run from November 11, 2002 to December 10, 2002.
4. Open the Peel Apart Card to reveal if it says "MEAL" or "NO MEAL".
   - If the flap of the Peel Apart Card says "MEAL", the customer can avail any of the following instant prizes, whichever appears on the card:
     - Burger McDo and Regular Drink
     - Filet-O-Fish and Regular Drink
     - McChicken Sandwich and Regular Drink
     - Big Mac and Regular Drink
     - Chicken Provolone with Cheese and Regular Drink
     - Free Upsize of Fries and Drink on your next Burger Value Meal
     - Gimme Cone (Vanilla ONLY)

   Customers who win instant prizes may also choose not to avail of the McDonald's instant prize. In which case, they may use the Meal or No Meal E-Wallet by peeling off flap No. 2 which contains the unique code of their Peel Apart Card.

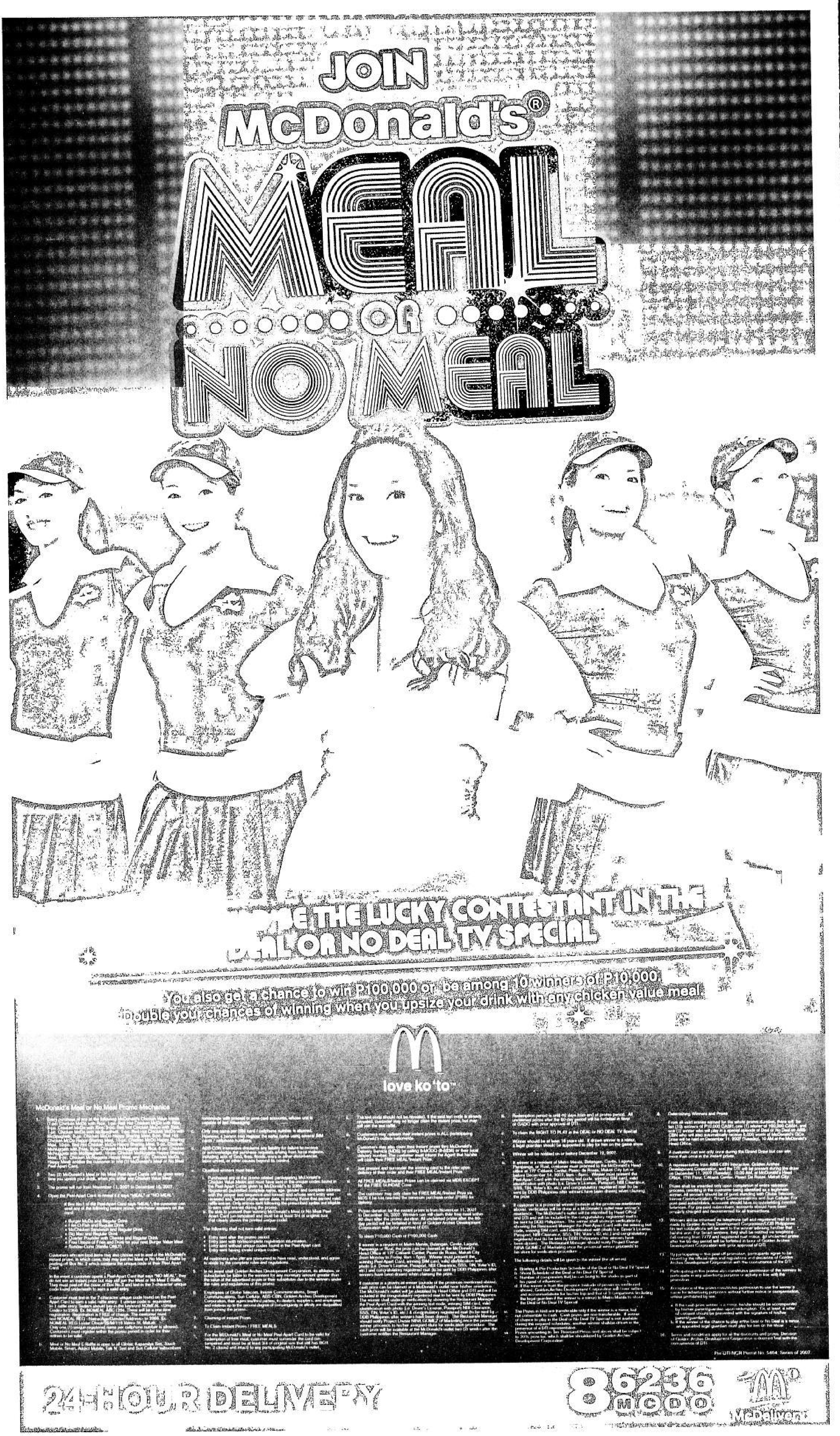
   In the event a Customer opens a Peel Apart Card that says "NO MEAL", they do not win an instant prize but may still get the Meal or No Meal E-Wallet. They must peel off the cover of flap No. 2 and log on the 3-character unique code found underneath to earn a valid entry.
5. Consumer must log on the 3-character unique code found on the Peel Apart Card to earn a valid raffle entry. A similar code is required for a raffle entry. Letters should log on the keyword MEAL AL <Unique Code> to 7161. Or NO MEAL ABC 1234. There will be a one time registration. Registration is FREE of charge. The customer must text NO MEAL REG <Name/Age/Gender/Address> to 7161. Eg. NO MEAL REG Lester Ongsiu/25/M/110 Valero St. Makati.
   Only one (1) unique registered name per cellphone number is allowed. Consumers must register within the promo period in order for their entries to be valid.
6. Meal or No Meal E-Wallet is open to all Globe, Kapamilya Deal, Touch Mobile, Smart, Addict Mobile, Talk N Text and Sun Cellular subscribers nationwide with prepaid or post paid accounts, whose unit is capable of text messaging.
7. Only one name per SIM card / cellphone number is allowed. However, a person may register the same name using several SIM cards / cellphone numbers.
8. ABS-CBN Interactive disclaims any liability for failure to receive or acknowledge the purchase requests arising from force majeure, including acts of God, fires, floods, wars or other disturbances, labor unrest, or other causes beyond its control.
9. Qualified winners must have:
   - Purchased any of the promo product participating McDonald's Chicken Value Meals and must have sent in the unique code found in the Peel Apart Cards prior to McDonald's or ABS-CBN.
   - Registered (submitted complete name, age, gender, and complete address with the proper text sequence and format) and whose text entry was received and logged on the server data, to winning those that received valid raffle entries. Only entries sent following the prescribed syntax are eligible to earn valid entries during the promo.
   - Be able to present their winning McDonald's Meal or No Meal Peel Apart Card (un-tampered and must be at least 3/4 of original size that clearly shows the printed unique code).
10. The following shall not earn valid entries:
    - Entry sent after the promo period
    - Entry sent with incomplete registration information
    - Entry sent without unique codes found in the Peel Apart card
    - Entry sent having provided unique codes
11. All participants who join are presumed to have read, understood, and agree to abide by the complete rules and regulations.
12. In no event shall Golden Arches Development Corporation, its affiliates, or subsidiaries be liable to the winners for any monetary amount greater than the value of the advertised prize or their substitutes due to the winners under the rules and conditions of the promo.
13. Employees of Globe Telecom, Smart Communications, Sun Cellular, ABS-CBN, Golden Arches Development Corporation, their agencies/third parties, affiliates, suppliers, and employees and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
14. Claiming of Instant Prizes:
    - To Claim Instant Prizes / FREE MEALS
    - For the McDonald's Meal or No Meal Peel Apart Card to be valid for redemption of free meal, customer must surrender the card (un-tampered and must be at least 3/4 of original size that clearly shows the printed unique code) of flap No. 2 colored and intact to any participating McDonald's outlet.
    - The text code should not be revealed. If the text text code is already revealed, customer may no longer claim the instant prize, but may still join the text raffle.
    - Customers may redeem their instant prizes in ALL participating McDonald's outlets nationwide.
    - Customers may also claim their instant prizes thru McDonald's Delivery Service (MDS) by calling toll-free DDO (8-6236) or their local delivery number. The customer must inform the Agent that he/she will claim their FREE MEAL Instant Prize.
    - Just present and surrender the winning card to the rider upon delivery of their order and their FREE MEAL Instant Prize.
    - All FREE MEAL Instant Prizes can be claimed via MDS EXCEPT for the FREE SUNDAE Cone.
    - The customer may only claim his FREE MEAL Instant Prize via MDS if he has reached the Delivery purchase order (P1000) for delivery.
    - Promo Period for the instant prizes is from November 11, 2002 to December 10, 2002. Winners can still claim their free meal within 60 days after the promo duration. All unclaimed prizes after the 60 day period will be forfeited in favor of Golden Arches Development Corporation with prior approval of DTI.
15. Instant P10,000 Cash or P100,000 Cash:
    - If winner is a resident of Metro Manila, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga or Bataan, the prize can be claimed at the McDonald's Head Office at 5/F Citibank Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City (8am Monday to Friday, 8am - 5pm). Winner must present the winning Peel Apart Card, winning SIM card, valid identification with photo (i.e. Driver's License, Passport, NBI Clearance, SSS, TIN, Voter's ID, etc). Last congratulatory registered text to be sent by DDO Philippines after winners have been chosen when claiming the prize.
    - If Customer is a person not within outside of the provinces mentioned above, cash prize can be claimed at a McDonald's outlet near his/her residence. The McDonald's outlet will be identified by Head Office and DTI and will be included in the congratulatory registered text to be sent by DDO Philippines. The winner shall undergo verification by showing the Restaurant Manager the Peel Apart Card with the winning text code, winning SIM card, valid identification with photo (i.e. Driver's License, Passport, NBI Clearance, SSS, TIN, Voter's ID, etc). Last congratulatory registered text to be sent by DDO Philippines after winners have been chosen when claiming the prize.
    - If Customer is a person not within outside of the provinces mentioned above, Golden Arches Development Corporation will cover airfare and accommodation for his/her legal guardian if the winner is a minor to Manila to avail the Deal or No Deal TV Special.
    - The Prizes in kind are transferable only if the winner can make his/her convenient to avail. Cash prizes are non-transferable. If winner chooses to play in the Deal or No Deal TV Special, is not available during the appointed schedule, another winner shall be chosen in the presence of a DTI representative.
    - Prizes awarding to Ten Thousand Pesos and above shall be subject to 20% prize tax which shall be shouldered by Golden Arches Development Corporation.
    - Redemption period is until 60 days from end of promo period. All unclaimed prizes after the 60-day period will be forfeited in favor of GADC with prior approval of DTI.
16. To claim the RIGHT TO PLAY in the DEAL or NO DEAL TV Special:
    - Winner should be at least 18 years old. If chosen winner is a minor, a legal guardian should be appointed to play for him/her in the game show.
    - Winner will be notified on or before December 12, 2002.
    - If winner is a resident of Metro Manila, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, or Bataan, contacted must proceed to the McDonald's Head office at 17F Citibank Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City (8:00 before December 13, 2002, 8am - 5pm). Winner must present the Peel Apart Card with the winning text code, winning SIM card, valid identification with photo (i.e. Driver's License, Passport, NBI Clearance, SSS, TIN, Voter's ID, etc.) and congratulatory registered text to be sent by DDO Philippines after winners have been chosen when claiming the prize.
    - If Customer is a person not within the provinces mentioned above, Golden Arches Development Corporation will cover airfare and accommodation for his/her legal guardian if the winner is a minor to Manila to avail the Deal or No Deal TV Special.
    - Winner shall undergo verification by showing the Restaurant Manager the Peel Apart Card with the winning text code, winning SIM card, valid identification with photo (i.e. Driver's License, Passport, NBI Clearance, SSS, TIN, Voter's ID, etc). Last congratulatory registered text to be sent by DDO Philippines after winners have been chosen when claiming the prize.
    - Winner should be at least 18 years old. If chosen winner is a minor, a legal guardian should be appointed to play for him/her in the game show.
    - Winner will be notified on or before December 12, 2002.
    - If winner is a resident of Metro Manila, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, or Bataan, contacted must proceed to the McDonald's Head office at 17F Citibank Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City (8:00 before December 13, 2002, 8am - 5pm). Winner must present the Peel Apart Card with the winning text code, winning SIM card, valid identification with photo (i.e. Driver's License, Passport, NBI Clearance, SSS, TIN, Voter's ID, etc.) and congratulatory registered text to be sent by DDO Philippines after winners have been chosen when claiming the prize.
    - If Customer is a person not within the provinces mentioned above, Golden Arches Development Corporation will cover airfare and accommodation for his/her legal guardian if the winner is a minor to Manila to avail the Deal or No Deal TV Special.
    - The following details will be given to the winner the day of airing:
    - Starting & Pot Prize (size in number of the Deal or No Deal TV Special)
    - Actual Number of the Deal or No Deal TV Special
    - Number of compartments that can be opened by the contestant as part of the game elimination
    - If the winner is from the province outside of provinces mentioned above, Golden Arches Development Corporation will cover airfare and accommodation for his/her legal guardian if the winner is a minor to Manila to avail the Deal or No Deal TV Special.
    - The Prizes in kind are transferable only if the winner can make his/her convenient to avail. Cash prizes are non-transferable. If winner chooses to play in the Deal or No Deal TV Special, is not available during the appointed schedule, another winner shall be chosen in the presence of a DTI representative.
    - Prizes awarding to Ten Thousand Pesos and above shall be subject to 20% prize tax which shall be shouldered by Golden Arches Development Corporation.
17. Redemption period is until 60 days from end of promo period. All unclaimed prizes after the 60-day period will be forfeited in favor of GADC with prior approval of DTI.
18. Delivering Winners and Prizes
    From all valid entries received for the whole promo duration, there will be ten (10) winners of P10,000 CASH, one (1) winner of P100,000 CASH, and one (1) winner who will play in a special episode of Deal or No Deal on ABS-CBN who will also automatically receive 5,000 cents of McDonald's GCs. Draw will be held on December 11, 2002 (Tuesday). To All at the McDonald's Head Office.
19. A customer can win only once during the Grand Draw but can win more than once in the instant prizes.
20. A representative from ABS-CBN Interactive, Golden Arches Development Corporation, and the DTI will be present during the draw on December 11, 2002 (Tuesday), 10:00 AM, at McDonald's Head Office, 17th Floor, Citibank Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
21. Prizes will be awarded only upon completion of entire validation process, resulting in the customer being identified as a legitimate winner. All winners should be of good standing with Globe Telecom, Smart Communications, Smart Communications and Sun Cellular. For post paid subscribers, accounts should not be overdue in outstanding balances. For postpaid subscribers, accounts should have been primarily charged and demonstrated for all transactions.
22. Winners will be informed via telephone call and registered mail to be made by Golden Arches Development Corporation/ABS-Philippines. In case the winner cannot be reached, the winner forfeits his/her Instant Prize. For text winners, they must be notified via telephone call coming from 7161 and registered mail mailing. All unclaimed prizes after the 60 day period will be forfeited in favor of Golden Arches Development Corporation with prior approval of DTI.
23. By participating in this promo of participation, participant agrees to be bound by the official rules and regulations and decisions of Golden Arches Development Corporation and the concurrence of the DTI.
24. Photo taking in this promo and consequent permission of the winners to photo taking is mandatory participation or activity in line with the promotion.
25. Participation of the promo constitutes permission to use the winner's name, his/her photo/image and likeness for any promotional purposes without further notice or compensation, unless prohibited by law.
    - If the winner of the chance to play in the Deal or No Deal is a minor, a legal guardian must be appointed to play for him/her in the game show.
    - If the winner of the chance to play in the Deal or No Deal is a minor, a legal guardian must be appointed to play for him/her in the game show.
26. Terms and conditions apply to all the promotions and prizes. Decision of Golden Arches Development Corporation is binding and final with the concurrence of DTI.

For DTI Permit Number 5484 Series of 2002

24-HOUR DELIVERY

8 6236 MCDO

McDelivery



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INSIDE

Award-winning Pinoy film goes to Kuala Lumpur /G2

Second generation Hollywood stars Only in Hollywood /H1

Bewitching Beyonce

REVIEW

By Pocholo Concepcion
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

BESOTTED FANS SCREAMED THEIR hearts out, while most of the audience were awestruck at the Beyonce concert Wednesday night at the Open Field of Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

The screaming erupted as soon as Beyonce, flaunting her "bootylicious" body, appeared on stage to greet the crowd and signal her band to pump up the music.

Spectacle

Opening with "Crazy in Love," the big hit that established her as a major solo artist following the dissolution of Destiny's Child, Beyonce struck a bewitching presence with vocals that matched the lusty appeal of her dance moves.

On the second number, "Freakum Dress" from her current "B'Day" CD, the spectacle that Beyonce prepared for this tour came to fore: two drummers, two keyboardists, three horn players, three backup singers, a percussionist, a bass player wearing dreadlocks and a lead guitarist donning an Afro—all women by the way—and complemented by six more female and four male dancers.

The musicians auditioned before the tour kicked off in April this year. Beyonce's requirement was that each of them must play a one-minute blazing solo. At the concert, these skills were seen via short exhibitions, highlighted by the drummers—one banging out while drinking from a bottled water, the other striking the skins while blindfolded.

BEWITCHING/ G4

BEYONCE'S voice emitted an earthy and honey-like quality.

Throughout North Luzon, Victory Liner can go the distance with Sun!

"With more than 50% savings on our phone bills, Sun helps us cover any rise in fuel and toll charges."

Marivic Del Pilar, Treasury & Marketing Manager of Victory Liner

Victory Liner, one of the largest bus companies in the country, faces the challenge of transporting tens of thousands of passengers all over North Luzon everyday. That is why they trust and believe in a communication expert that is just as effective—Sun Cellular.

"Wala na ang culture na nagtitipid ng load because with Sun's Call & Text Unlimited, we can call each other anytime," says Marivic.

All field and line supervisors use Sun Cellular to monitor the Victory Liner bus fleet. Even their drivers and conductors now use Sun Cellular.

"In the event of accidents, traffic or floods, they contact the head office in Manila, wherever in North Luzon they may be," says Marivic. Decision-making and reaction time is cut, and communication among the eight major terminals and sub-terminals in North Luzon is more efficient.

After 62 years of being in business, Victory Liner is bound for more success. And with Sun Cellular ensuring fast communication, they will definitely continue to go places.

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EL CANTANTE R13 12:30,3:00,5:10,8:00	GAME PLAN G 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10	BALLS OF FURY G 11:45,1:45,3:45 30 DAYS OF NIGHT R13 5:35,7:50,10:05
WE OWN THE NIGHT R13 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30	LUST CAUTION R18 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10	LIONS FOR LAMBS PG13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
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CINEMA 1 LUST CAUTION 10:35, 1:35, 4:35 7:35, 10:35 R-18
CINEMA 2 EL CANTANTE / 30 DAYS OF NIGHTS 11:40, 2:25 //5:05 7:50, 10:35 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
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CINEMA 3 WE OWN THE NIGHTS 11:40, 2:25, 5:10 7:55, 10:35 R-13
CINEMA 4 LIONS FOR LAMBS 10:30, 12:30, 3:00 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 PG-13
CINEMA 5 GAME PLAN 11:00, 1:20, 3:40 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 GP
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November 8&10, 16&17, 23&24	"Into the Woods" musical	8:00 PM
November 15, 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM
November 20, 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
November 22, 2007	Body Builders	8:00 PM
Nov. 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

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LEEHOM WANG
TO KILL THE ENEMY, SHE MUST CAPTURE HIS HEART... AND BREAK HER OWN.
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He's A Prince With A Chip On His Shoulder
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
ENCHANTED
In Cinemas November 21
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Is Ara in protest over losing the 'Lupang Hinirang' gig?

ANGEL Locsin

LUIS Manzano

By The INQUIRER Entertainment Staff

TO PROVE HIS CURRENT IMPOVERished state, this once high-flying actor told stunned co-stars that he had yet to change his underwear since the start of their shooting.

"Which was over a week ago," a co-worker shuddered.

He even showed his tattered briefs to the co-worker who described it as "something Tarzan would wear."

Something like a dirty loincloth?

Mega-sized tantrum

This acclaimed young actor looks meek as a lamb, but he also has a mean streak, said a source.

The guy was taking a nap while waiting with co-stars for their ride home.

After he was told by a security guard that sleeping wasn't allowed in that public area, the actor threw a mega-sized tantrum that made his co-stars scatter in different directions.

"They were ashamed to know him," explained a witness.

Breaking Kapuso news

Here's breaking news from Nessa Valdellon, vice president of GMA 7's Public Affairs department: "Palaban," the chat show hosted by Winnie Monsod, Malou Mangahas and Miriam Quiambao, has concluded its run and is set to be replaced by an action-adventure environmental program titled "Born to be Wild." The new show is hosted by veterinarian Ferdz Recio and Everest climber Romi Garduce.

Valdellon denied the rumor that boxer Manny Pacquiao is going to host a show under the network's News and Public Affairs division.

That means Manny's show is definitely under the Kapuso channel's Entertainment arm.

Ara update

Which leads us to ask: Is Ara Mina moving to ABS-CBN to protest losing the "Lupang Hinirang" gig at the Pacquiao fight aired by GMA 7?

She denied the scuttlebutt even though she has guested on Kapamilya shows "ASAP" and "Wowowee."

She told Rushes that she has a "live" contract with "Bubble Gang" and not an "exclusive" deal with the Kapuso network.

She, however, joined the "Bubble" cast in the new Christmas station ID of GMA 7.

Finger measure

A feisty actress once complained of the unprofessional ways of a topnotch fashion designer.

The couturier was not only tardy in delivering clothes, but he also didn't use a tape measure in getting the star's vital stats.

"He only used his fingers to measure my waistline," the shocked client gasped.

Heat of the moment

NEW YORK—Lance Bass, who is openly gay, says he once married a girlfriend in Las Vegas.

"People do stupid things in the heat of the moment," the 28-year-old singer told E! News in an article published recently on its Web site. "I've been in Vegas where I've gotten married for like five minutes, but no one talks about it, though."

Bass, who was part of the boy band 'N Sync and is now seen on the long-running Broadway musical "Hairspray," says he got hitched in "1999 or 2000," and the bride was "just a friend."*AP*

Paris in Korea

SEOUL — US socialite Paris Hilton said Friday she has renewed her contract to represent a South Korean sportswear giant and hopes to extend her own fashion business here.

"I am very excited to be here, a great market for me. I think the Korean market is great for me," the 27-year-old heiress to the Hilton hotel empire told reporters.

Hilton was invited by Fila Korea, the sportswear maker she has represented since March. The value of her one-year contract has been estimated at $1 million. *AFP*

RUSHES SUNDAY

***

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Love triangle in the works?

•Dennis Trillo, *pinag-aagawan:* Cristine Reyes *sinugod ni* Carlene Aguilar.

•Carlene, *kinumpronta at 'sinaktan' si* Cristine!

•Dennis, *iiwan si* Carlene *dahil kay* Cristine.

•Dennis, *umuuwi kay* Carlene.

•Mark Herras *na*-excite *sa halik ni* Rhian Ramos.

•Rhian, *'di papatol sa* tomboy.

•Rhian *sinisiraan pa rin ng kanyang* stalkers!

•Pauleen Luna, *mabunbuntis sa* 2008!

Aminin...

•*Relasyon nina* Luis Manzano, Angel Locsin *ibinuking ni* Gov. Vi.

•Luis *at* Angel *mag-dyowa na, itinatago lang dahil kay* Piolo Pascual.

•Luis, *ayaw pag-usapan si* Angel.

•Angel *at* Luis *aamin na.*

•"Angel and I are okay...and *sana iwan na lang sa amin 'to...*" — Luis Manzano

Over the top

•Ehra Madrigal *nag*-topless *sa* soap opera.

•Ai Ai topless *sa* concert. *(Ayayay!)*

Lipo here, lipo there

•Kris Aquino *dapat nang magpa*-lipo.

•Friends *ni* Aiko *ang* source *ng kanyang pagpapa*-lipo.

•Snooky, *magpapa*-lipo *at magpapalaki ng* boobs.

•Mila, *tutol sa pagpapalaki ng* boobs *ni* Snooky.

•Mega, *nanggigil sa pagluwa ng* boobs *ni* KC.

•Diether, *si* Bubbles Paraiso *ang ipinalit kay* Kristine.

•Oyo: *"Wala kaming ginagawang masama ni* Kristine." *(Oo nga naman, masama bang mag*-date *sa* Beyonce concert?)

•Jennylyn Mercado *sinugod ng* manager *sa* taping.

Snubbings

•Jennylyn, *iritadang inisnab ang taga-*'Showbiz Central.'

•Abigail Cruz, *inisnab ang* international modeling contract.

•Alfred Vargas a Marian devotee.

•Geneva Cruz, KC Montero to legalize union in US?

•Martin not welcome at Pops' concert. *(Totoo na kaya yan?)*

•*Mga* Pinoy *sa* US, *nag*-walkout *sa* concert *ni* Pops. (After hearing Pops' voice?)

•*Nakakasawa na ang mukha ni* Sunshine Dizon *sa* TV.

•*Magkasundo na sila ni* Liz: Willie *dumadalaw na.*

•Willie *at* Liz, *malabo nang magkabalikan.*

•Gabby Concepcion, *bagong* Kapuso! Eula Valdez, *tunay na ngang* Kapuso!

•Jolina to do a movie with Gabby.

•Gabby *aarestuhin sa bansa.*

•Juday, Ryan off to Spain.

Juday *dinenay ni* Wendell Ramos.

•Wendell, *may* trauma *sa* ABS-CBN?

•Soap *ni* Kristine, *tsutsugihin.*

•Tsong, *may bagong* baby?

•Star Magic talents, *dapat turuan ng* proper hygiene.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

CRISTINE Reyes

CARLENE Aguilar

OYO Boy Sotto

JOJO GUIAO PUNZALAN

KRISTINE Hermosa

Top-secret

•Ara *lihim na nakikipagkita kay* Manny.

•Katrina Halili, model/actor *may lihim na relasyon.*

•*Humahanap lang ng tiyempo para umamin na:* Sam, Anne *lihim ang relasyon!*

•*Kahit pa natsismis na* gay: Anne *pakakasal kay* Sam.

•Parents *ni* Toni Gonzaga *makikipag*-double wedding *sa anak;* Direk Paul *at* Toni *walang* pre-nuptial agreement.

•Toni *ayaw pa raw pakasal sa dyowa! (E ba't dyowa na ang tawag niyo?)*

•Say *ng* friend: Billy Crawford *walang nililigawan kina* Marian *at* Rufa Mae.

•Rufa Mae, *aminadong laspag na!*

•Palmolive Palma *iniyakan ang* sex video *nila ni* Will Devaughn.

•Isko Moreno *naminigay ng libreng gamot at edukasyon.*

Award-winning Pinoy film goes to KL

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Introducing IRISH CONTRERAS
Executive Producer ANTHONY V. GEDANG
Written and Directed by NEAL TAN
Artists Entertainment Works International

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE AWARD-WINNING digital feature "Huling Balyan sa Buhi (The Woven Stories of the Other)" by Sherad Anthony Sanchez will represent the country in the first-ever Kuala Lumpur International Film Festival from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2, the Film Development Council of the Philippines announced recently.

The Council also hopes to send actors Jericho Rosales and Kristine Hermosa to the festival, FDCP vice chair Christine Dayrit said.

Rosales and Hermosa are big stars in Malaysia due to the popularity of their *telenovelas* "Pangako sa 'Yo" and "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas."

Story of a tribal princess

"Huling Balyan" tells the story of Gigi, a tribal princess who deals with conflict arising from war between communist insurgents and the military. It is about the Matigsalog tribe in Mindanao "in the advent of an influx of change and ideological clashes," director Sanchez said.

"Huling Balyan" has won awards in film festivals in Munich, Marseilles and New Delhi.

Coinciding with the Malaysian film fest is the Creative Multimedia Content Expo 2007, an event that will showcase various components related to film, animation and broadcast.

CMC Expo vice chair Ismal Mahamed, in an e-mail sent to the FDCP, said the expo will introduce the latest technology in "new media equipment, editing and post-audio visual systems, broadcast and multimedia facilities, special effects, animatronics, virtual reality, props and wardrobe, among others."

Mahamed explained that the expo would not only provide a platform for producers, filmmakers and animators to exchange ideas, but also give attendees the opportunity to tap the growing creative industries in the South East Asian region.

The exhibition will be organized alongside the "KLIFF 2007 Symposium." Topics to be discussed are Creative Multimedia and New Media Contents and Funding, International Co-Productions, Production and Investment, as well as International Partnerships.

ROUNDUP

Mascot parade

ABOUT 100 mascots, marching bands, cheer dance teams, clowns, jugglers and Santas will parade on Roxas Blvd. on Dec. 16 as part of event specialist Topmarkse's and the Tourism & Cultural Affairs Bureau of the City of Manila's Christmas treat for children and their families.

The event, "The Christmas Family Festival... Krismaskot," is open to the public.

Interested participants may call 435-7097 or text 0920-4014920.

Cinema E-Club

The five-theater Shang Cineplex, located at the Shangri-La Plaza, now offers membership in the cinema's exclusive E-Club.

Members can experience the convenience of buying tickets online or reserving movie tickets by phone, earn points on ticket purchases that can be redeemed for rewards and get discounts on private bookings.

Call 6334735 for details.

Torre in 'Dogeaters'

Film, television and stage actor Joel Torre will reprise the roles he played in the 2001 Public Theater production in New York when "Dogeaters" premieres in Manila this month.

The local staging of the acclaimed play, directed by Bobby Garcia, will star Gina Alajar, Michael de Mesa, Rez Cortez, Leo Rialp and Jon Santos.

JOEL Torre

The play will run from Nov. 16 to Dec. 2 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati.

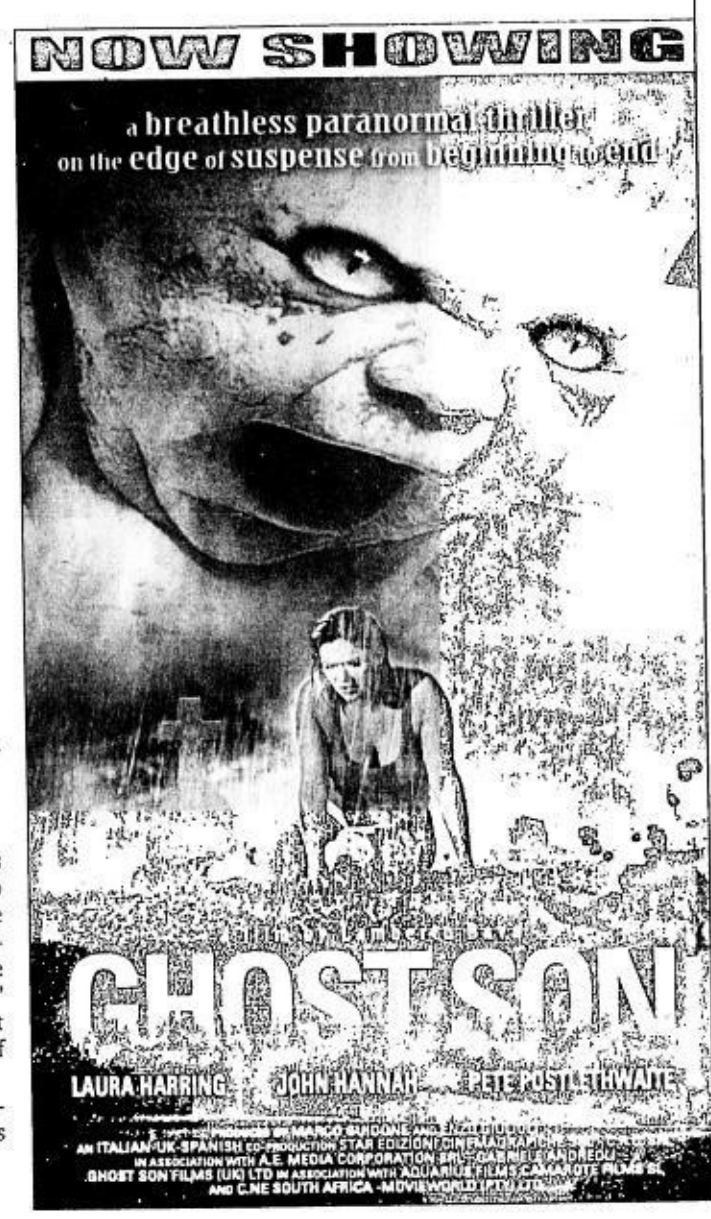
Call 892-7078 or 840-1187.

'Snow White'

Ballet Philippines invites the public to watch the dance company's adaptation of the fairy tale classic "Snow White" on Nov. 17, 4 p.m. at the 2L Activity Hub of Starmall Las Piñas.

The classic will be performed with a different twist, as Ballet Philippines synthesizes dancing into different movements and forms.

For more information, call 872-5249.



AT THE CINEMAS

TFX

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GLORIETTA 1	1 LIONS FOR LAMBS	2 THE GAME PLAN	3 BALLS OF FURY	4 ATAUL FOR RENT
GLORIETTA 4	1 WE OWN THE NIGHT	2 EL CANTANTE	3 TFX LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LUST CAUTION	5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	6 THE GAME PLAN	7 RENDITION
GREENBELT 1	1 LUST CAUTION	2 EL CANTANTE		
GREENBELT 3	1 TFX LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 TFX THE GAME PLAN GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 LUST CAUTION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 TFX THE GAME PLAN	2 LIONS FOR LAMBS		
	3 WE OWN THE NIGHT	4 LUST CAUTION	5 EL CANTANTE	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 WE OWN THE NIGHT	2 BALLS OF FURY	3 WEDDING DAZE	4 HALLOWEEN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE GAME PLAN	2 LUST CAUTION		
	3 EL CANTANTE	4 LIONS FOR LAMBS	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT	
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	5 BALLS OF FURY	6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	7 TFX THE GAME PLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

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Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
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Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Christmas Concert Series feat. KUH LEDESMA November 11; 6pm; Activity Center
GREENBELT	Bossa Nova Christmas November 16 & 23; Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Pre-Christmas 10 to 10 Sale! November 16 to 18 and 23 to 25
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Monterey and Virginia Foods Event November 11; 3pm to 7pm; Activity Center
MARKET! MARKET!	Jobstreet Job Fair November 14 to 15, Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	2007 Shell National Students Art Exhibition - 100 Best Entries & Winners November 8 to 18, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Kyla with Tiples De Sto. Domingo November 17; 7pm; TriNoma Park Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks December 9; 6pm; Activity Center

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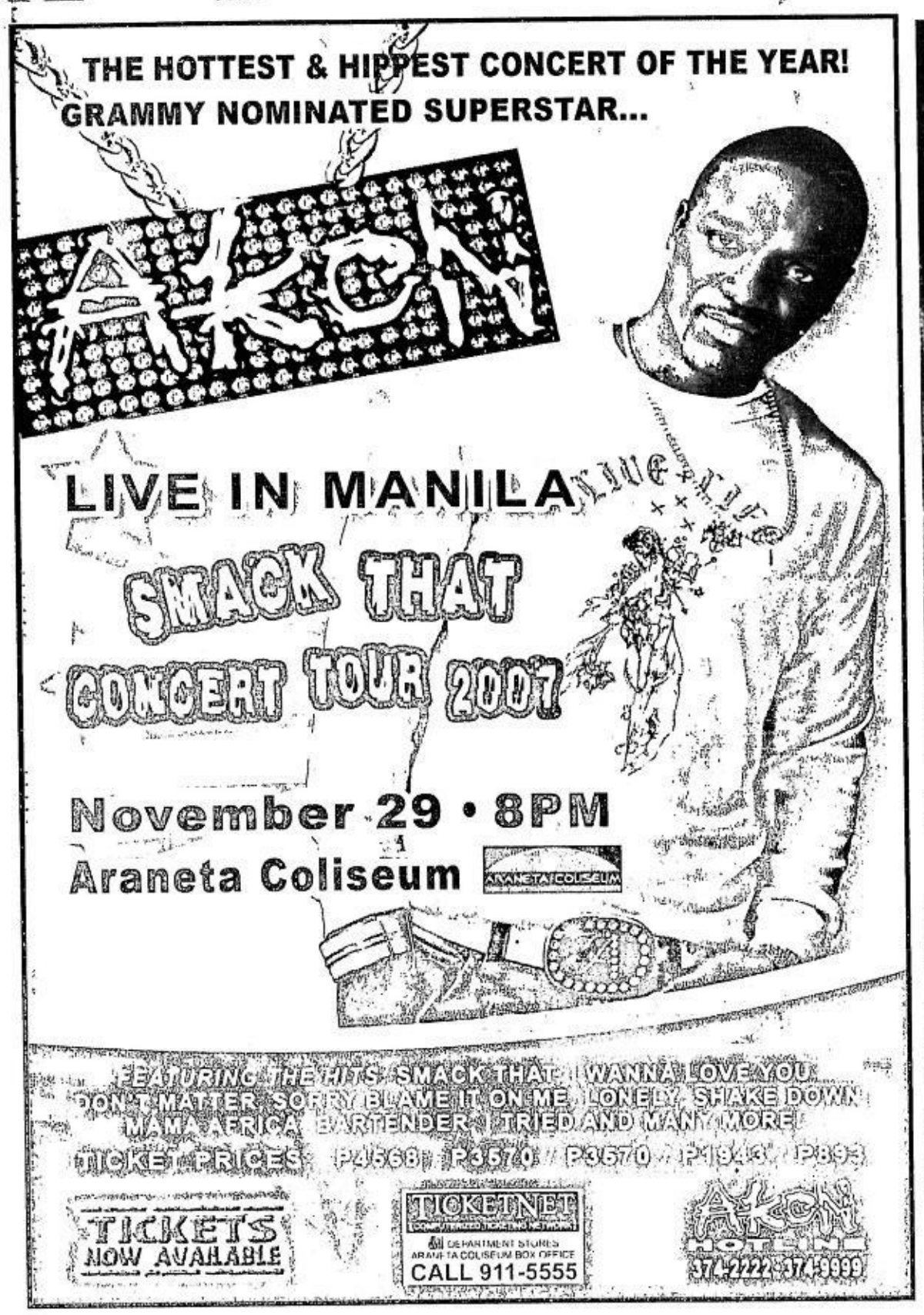
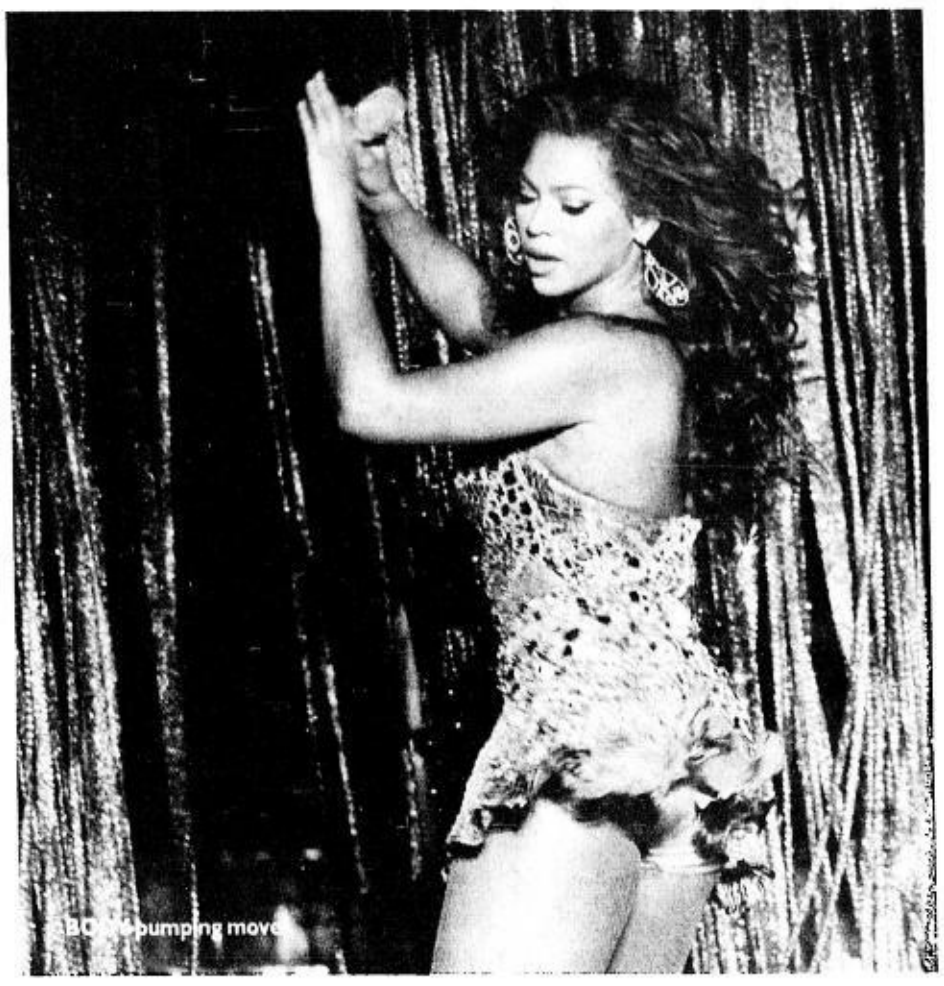
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma




BODY-pumping moves

Bewitching Beyonce

From page G1

Beyonce's voice emitted a combined earthy and honey-like quality, charged with an energy that simulated horn sounds in one moment, and possessed with a sensitivity like a torch singer in another instance.

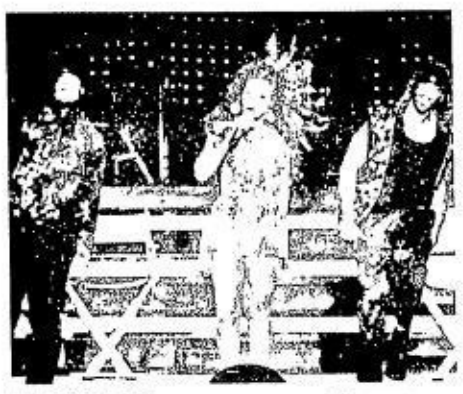
But it was her body-pumping moves that drew wild reaction. She showed how well-toned abs looked good while grooving on a reggae break; and that she could dance like a belly dancer on "Beautiful Liar."

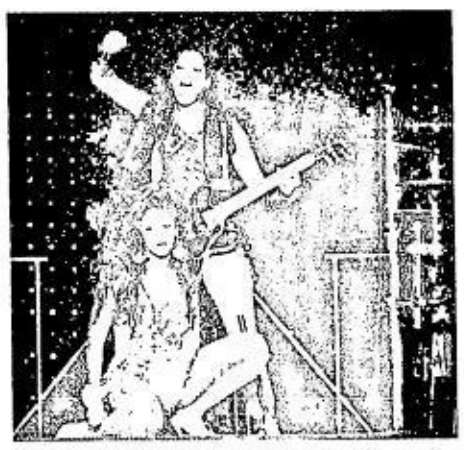
The emphasis on woman power was evident throughout the gig. A number of Beyonce's songs were about survival, independence and self-identity, and there was a part where each of her dancers lip-synched how they had to end bad relationships.

Some 24 songs were performed, although most of these were just snippets. Beyonce was quite busy changing costumes which left us wondering whether she could really do a straight, no-frills concert on her own.

But all was forgiven when an acoustic guitar accompanied "Irreplaceable" — in which Beyonce asked everyone to "think about the person who took you for granted" — the perfect soundtrack to affirm woman power.

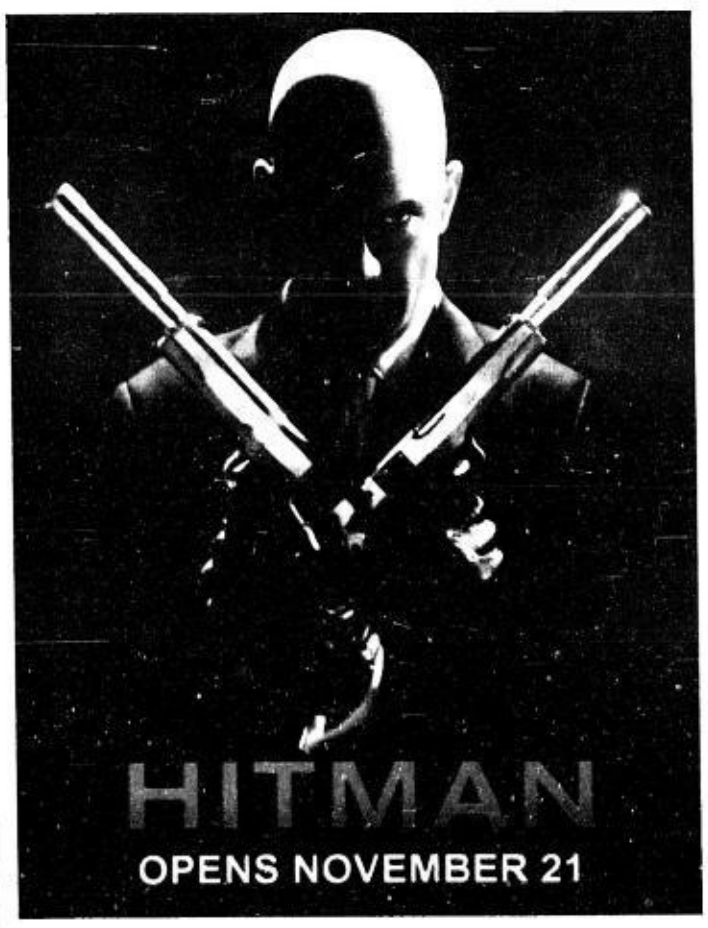
We thought this was old news since Aretha Franklin first covered "Respect" in 1967. But then again, feminism never sounded so good—with a voice and body like Beyonce's.


TWO MALE dancers accompany Beyonce.


AFRO-HAIRED guitarist pumps up the music.

THE GIG'S emphasis on woman power was evident.

FEMINISM never sounded— and looked — this good.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Interesting lives of second generation Hollywood

MICHAEL Douglas on meeting Catherine Zeta-Jones for the first time: "I'm going to be the father of your children."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

One has Streisand for step ma; the other has Zeta-Jones for wife

LOS ANGELES—TODAY WE feature two actors who are, by coincidence, members of Hollywood's second generation: Michael Douglas and Josh Brolin.

Michael, of course, is the equally accomplished son of veteran actor **Kirk Douglas**. He has been married to **Catherine Zeta-Jones** since 2000. "We have no seven-year itch," he quipped. Michael's mother, **Diana Douglas**, is also an actress.

Michael stars with **Evan Rachel Wood** in "King of California," a comedy-drama about a man obsessed with the legend that a long-lost treasure of a Spanish explorer is buried somewhere in a California suburb. The search of Charlie (played my Michael) for gold takes him to the most unlikely place—a branch of Costco, a popular US warehouse chain store.

Josh, on the other hand, is the son of actor **James Brolin**, whose third wife is superstar **Barbra Streisand**. That makes the singer-actress-director a step mom of Josh. Josh's mother, Jane Brolin, passed away in 1995. Like Michael, he is also married to an actress, **Diane Lane**.

Josh, whose child actor career includes "Goonies," is finally getting major recognition. 2007 is his year. Among his recent films are the Coen Brothers' "No Country for Old Men," where he is generating Best Actor nod buzz, and **Ridley Scott's** "American Gangster," which stars **Denzel Washington** and **Russell Crowe**.

In separate interviews, Michael and Josh talked about their interesting lives, including how it is like to have a famous actor for a father. And in Josh's case, he also dishes about being the stepson of Barbra.

Josh Brolin

On having Barbra as step mom:

Awful, awful. Can you imagine if I actually said that here? It's not going to be very good (laughter). I have a wonderful relationship with her. It's a very friendly one. She's a very curious soul. She asks a lot of questions. She's very interested in people. When you're given the gift that she has, I can't imagine that you're treated humanly very often. It's always, "This" instead of "Just this." She's a wonderful lady. I am happy for both of them (Barbra and father).

On having a mom who counted Brando as a pal:

My mom was friends with **Marlon Brando**. When my mother ran away from her home in Texas, she came to LA. **Clint Eastwood** and his wife took her in. My mom was a major character. She was a very funny, extremely loud Texan. She met Brando through Clint. One day, my mom asked him if she wanted to come over and eat chicken. He came over to the house. He went into the bathroom. From there he said, "Take off your clothes. Get into bed. I'll be out in 15 minutes." My mom left after writing him a note. For a year, they didn't talk to each other.

A year later, she invited him again for chicken. He came over to the house. She went into the other room. When she came out, the chicken was gone. There was a note saying, "Thanks for the chicken, Marlon." That's my mom's relationship with Marlon Brando (laughter).

On living in the shadow of a popular father:

There are lots of second generation actors—**Sean Penn** and Nick (**Nicolas**) **Cage** and so on. It's like the plumber. We went into the plumbing business. For me, I took a different road. I took the theater road. My dad wasn't a big theater guy. He was a movie guy. We're very different. I have short legs. He has long legs. I think he had it much tougher than I did because he was so freakin' handsome whereas I took the character actor route. I was really interested in doing things that were the opposite of how I came across physically.

In the beginning, I ran from the whole idea of shadow. I don't want anybody to think there's any nepotistic thing going on. Honestly, it was much harder because people were very conscious about not giving me work because of who my dad was. They didn't want to make it easy for me. I think they made it even harder which was great for me in the long run because it made me work for it.

Michael Douglas

How he shopped all night at Costco:

I never heard a lot about Costco. Now I'm a religious Costco fanatic. It's the most amazing place I have ever seen in my life. We filmed there from eight o'clock at night until eight o'clock in the morning. In between shots, I'd walk down the aisles. The Costco guys were very smart. They gave a discount card to all the actors and crew. They left one checkout counter open. I would average two aisles per night when we were shooting there.

The first time I came home from filming all night at Costco, it was nine o'clock in the morning and Catherine was having coffee. She saw me driving in and I had to back up the car to the garage. She's going, "What's going on?" I had cases of Hawaiian Coconut drinks. I like them. They tasted good. But I didn't know I had to get them in a box. I also bought so much meat that I had to buy a freezer (laughter).

On showing "Basic Instinct" to the kids:

I don't have any movies that are appropriate for them to watch. I can't say, "Hey guys, you want to see 'Basic Instinct' tonight (laughter)?" I did a voice-over for one of those dinosaur

INTERESTING/ H2

JOSH Brolin on step mom Barbra Streisand: "I have a wonderful relationship with her. She's a wonderful lady." RUBEN V. NEPALES

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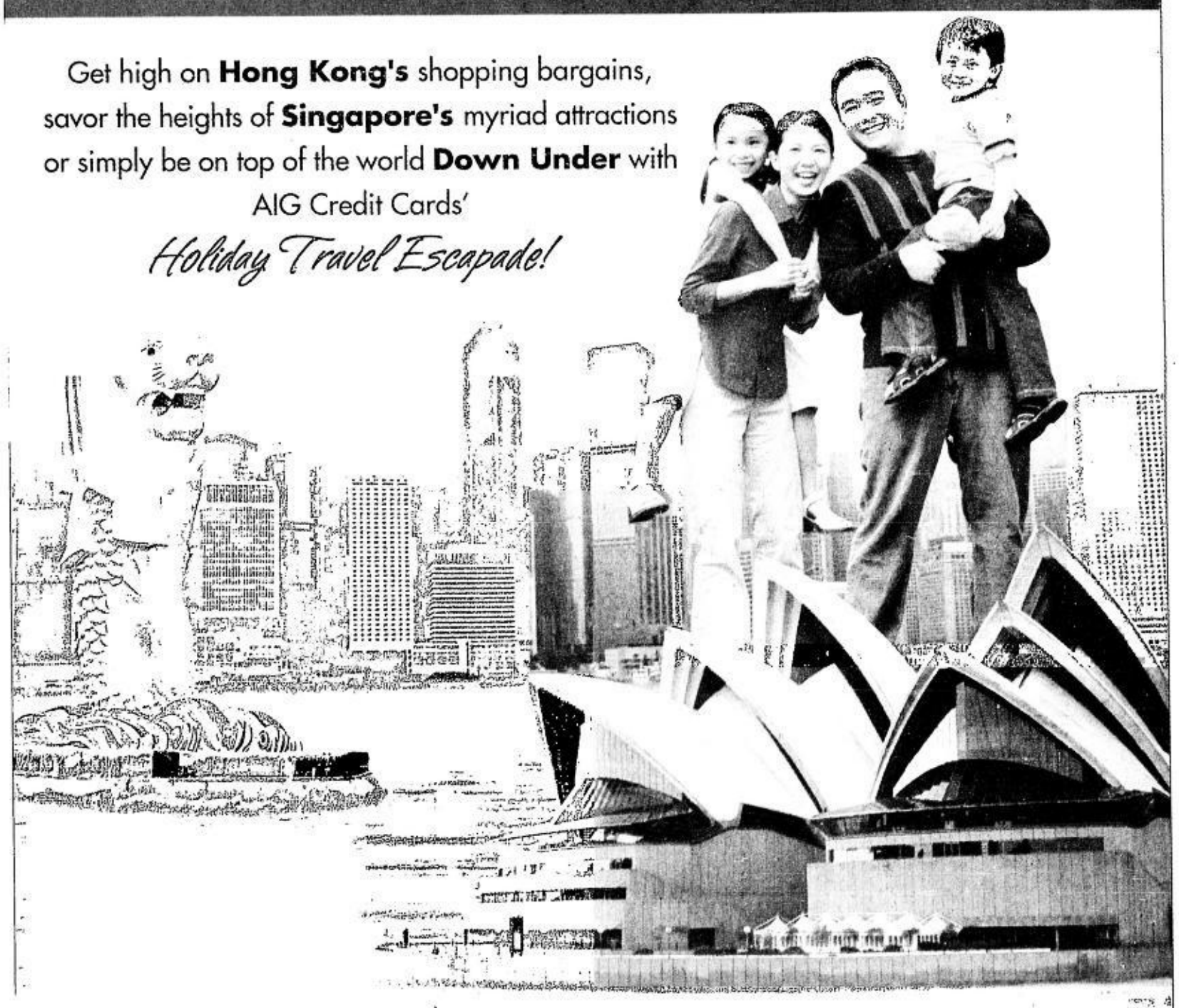

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Interesting lives...

From page H1

IMAX movies shown at the Museum of Natural History (in New York). We went to see that. **Dylan** said, "Daddy, that's the best movie you've ever been in (laughter)." I said, "All right, you haven't seen any of my movies." So we showed them an edited version of "Romancing the Stone." After that, I'm the big man on campus. They look at me and go, "Wow!" (laughter).

On having a house with Sinatra and Curtis as guests:

The biggest advantage of belonging to the second generation is that you grow up and be in your father's house with **Frank Sinatra, Tony Curtis, Burt Lancaster** and **Billy Wilder**—you see them as people with their insecurities and vulnerabilities. You take all the magic out of this business. You see how they conducted themselves in front of the press. That by far was the biggest advantage. My mother, who is always kind of pushed to the side because she's not famous, is an actress, too. She taught me the joy of acting.

Lindsay Lohan, take note:

You should get rid of every rehab center within 90 miles of Los Angeles (laughter). This three-day or long weekend rehab up in Malibu is the most ridiculous thing (laughter) I've heard about in my life. With **Lindsay Lohan**, it's up to 36 days. But [what] you have to [do is] take a break and get your life in order.

How she met Catherine at the film fest in Deauville, France:

She was there for "Zorro" and I was there for "A Perfect Murder." We had a drink. I found out we had the same birthday. I told her, "I'm going to be the father of your children (laughter)." She said, "I have heard a lot about you and it's nice to know it's all true."

On doing a possible movie with his wife:

It's hard to find movies that we can do together. And there's the history of married couples being romantic on the screen as not a great formula for box-office success. People don't seem to like it. So maybe I'll get a young leading man for Catherine. They'll have a love affair and I'll be the villain. We'd like to do it in India which is a country that I'd really love to visit for a few months.

Oh, those LA party hostesses:

Catherine and I are the same—we both like to arrive at events on time. We go to parties in Los Angeles. We arrive on time and the hostess is still upstairs with her hair in curlers.

His dish on Catherine:

She has a wonderful work ethic. She left home at 15 and at 16 she was on the West End, doing eight shows a week. So she has tremendous discipline. You realize how many young actors and actresses today lack that discipline... She is a true partner in life, not a co-dependent.

What did he teach her?

You're going to have to ask her (laughter).

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

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GALLERIA

1 LIONS for LAMBS • THX 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
2 GAME PLAN 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 EL CANTANTE 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM
7 30 DAYS of NIGHT 1:00 3:20 5:40 / BALLS of FURY 5:45 7:55 10:00
8 indieSine: 2 MINUTES LATER 1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30
9 GHOST SON 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
10 LUST CAUTION 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

ERMITA

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 ATAUL for RENT 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 30 DAYS of NIGHT 10:20 12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00
4 GHOST SON 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:25 10:00
5 BALLS of FURY 10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
6 LUST CAUTION 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
7 HIDE and SEEK 12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

Midtown

1 EL CANTANTE 12:35 3:00 5:25 8:00 10:00
2 GAME PLAN 10:20 12:35 3:55 5:15 7:35 10:00
3 LIONS for LAMBS 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

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4 EL CANTANTE 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
5 LUST CAUTION 11:20 2:30 5:40 9:00
6 HIDE and SEEK 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
8 ATAUL for RENT 12:50 2:50 4:50 / EL CANTANTE 6:45 9:10

NOVALICHES

1 GAME PLAN
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
4 HIDE and SEEK

PIONEER

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2 GAME PLAN
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

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3 LUST CAUTION
4 HIDE and SEEK

IMUS

1 HIDE and SEEK
2 BALLS of FURY
3 LUST CAUTION
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

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2 HIGHLANDER
3 HIDE and SEEK
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TARLAC

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2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 RENDITION

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3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
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6 HIGHLANDER

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2 HIGHLANDER
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5 RETRIBUTION
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1 HALLOWEEN
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 UNREST
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 STARDUST
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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2 THE GAME PLAN MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT MTRCB R-13 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
4 BALLS OF FURY MTRCB GP 1:10, 3:15 5:20, 7:25, 9:30

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1 WE OWN THE NIGHT 12:55, 3:20, 5:55, 8:35, 11:00 R-13
2 GAMEPLAN 1:15, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05 G
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
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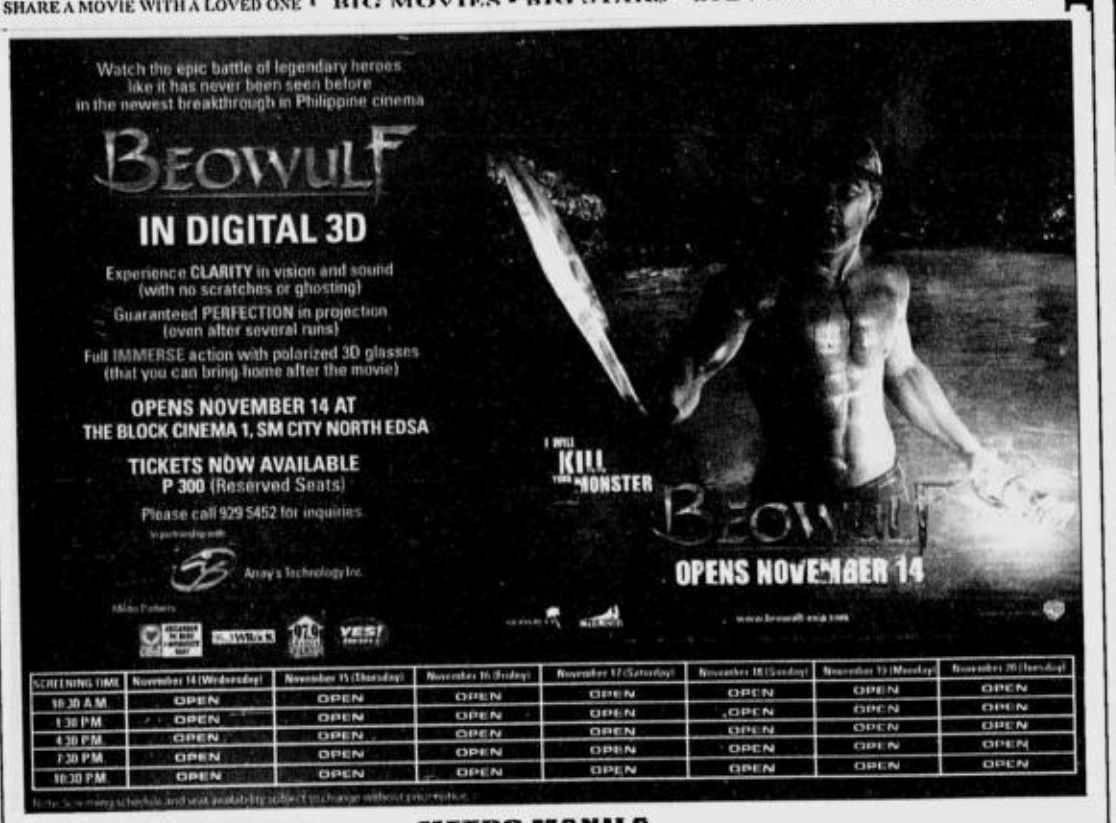

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10:30 A.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
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3 RESERVED
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5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 LIONS FOR LAMBS
8 WE OWN THE NIGHT
9 GHOST ON
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 ATAUL FOR RENT/CARTOON NETWORK
12 STARDUST/ EL CANTANTE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 RESERVED
5 GHOST SON
6 LIONS FOR LAMBS
7 ATAUL FOR RENT/CARTOON NETWORK
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 HIDE & SEEK
10 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
11 STARDUST
12 EL CANTANTE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 BALLS OF FURY
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5 STARDUST
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
10 HALLOWEEN
11 EL CANTANTE
12 CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 HALLOWEEN/ APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 11TH HOUR
8 ATAUL FOR RENT/CARTOON NETWORK
9 EL CANTANTE
10 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 EL CANTANTE
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 THE GAME PLAN
6 BALLS OF FURY
7 GHOST SON
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 ATAUL FOR RENT/CARTOON NETWORK

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2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 HIDE & SEEK
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SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
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2 LIONS FOR LAMBS
3 ATAUL FOR RENT/ CARTOON NETWORK
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
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8 HALLOWEEN
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11 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12 BALLS OF FURY

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2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 BUTTERFLY ON WHEEL

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2 BALLS OF FURY/HALLOWEEN
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5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
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9 BALLS OF FURY

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
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2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 GHOST SON
4 RENDITION

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
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2 HIDE & SEEK
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 UNREST

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1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 UNREST

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3 UNREST
4 RETRIBUTION

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2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 HIDE & SEEK
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2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
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2 STARDUST
3 HIDE AND SEEK
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5 CARTOON NETWORK
6 HALLOWEEN

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2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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5 STARDUST
6 EVENING
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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Asian horror meets Freddie Krugger

By Jayson B. Brizuela

THROUGH THE DECADES, THE HORROR genre has proven to be a consistent box-office winner. Thanks to our culture of superstition, fright flicks just seem to fare better despite the "demise" of other film genres.

They've also gotten better. From the campy shockers of the 1980s, local filmmakers have adopted the new Asian style of horror, coming out with some very original ideas for what we'd like to call "paranoia" movies.

These are flicks featuring not monsters, but malevolent spirits that are so disturbing and terrifying we lose a few nights' sleep out of sheer paranoia.

"Hide and Seek," this year's Halloween offering from Regal Films, is a somewhat hesitant step towards this general direction. Starting out as a spine-tingling, edge-of-your seat paranoia fest, it has all the promise of a great contemporary horror movie from Asia.

That is, until it turns into a slasher flick where no one even dies.

Lost appeal

The let-down is quite similar to how a lot of people felt after watching M. Night Shyamalan's "Signs." After the movie succeeds in pushing the audience to the edge of abject terror, its appeal loses out once the aliens came tumbling down.

Not that "Hide and Seek," directed by Rayhan Carlos (nephew of the late veteran comedy director Luciano "Chaning" Carlos), is a total disappointment.

As far as narrative, execution and overall production are concerned, it's in the league of many recent Asian horror classics in terms of tone and quality.

The scenes are clean and well-shot; the night shots inside the house are too realistic for comfort; the characters are played relatively well by all actors, and even the special effects are impressive.

The plot, though simple, is a good starting point: Eric Quizon is Oliver, a university professor trying to get away from the world after he is tried and acquitted of a high-profile crime.

Together with his wife, Leah (Jean Garcia) and children Nica (Jenica Garcia) and Uno (Julijo Pisk), he tries to start a new life in an old and isolated house in a far-off province.

However, the spirits lingering in and around the house—that of a dead family played by Ryan Eigenmann, Alessandra DaRossi and young actress Angel Sy—bring a new kind of terror into their lives.

Terrifying moments

In terms of scare factor, we give this flick an eight out of 10. It is, by far, the best local take on the tired and oftentimes parodied haunted house concept.

There are many truly terrifying moments: glassware being moved; characters "losing" a few minutes of their lives to nightmarish spells; astral projections of characters who are alive and awake just beyond the door.

However, many of the token terror scenes (when sightings occur or when audiences are shown gruesome images of troubled spirits) serve to simply startle audiences—*"pang-gulat,"* in street parlance.

This is unfortunate because what makes Asian horror movies so frightening that even Hollywood is churning out remakes, is their ability to imprint images inside viewers' minds that linger long after the end credits have rolled.

The film's momentum also takes a dip, ironically, at the climax when the spirit of a murderous father (Eigenmann) turns deadly, quite literally.

While this latter part may prove to be frightening to many, it is a totally unexpected turn, especially after such a strong buildup in the better, first part of the movie.

ASIAN/ H5

MARK Wahlberg, left, and Robert Duvall in "We Own The Night"

Standard cop fare

LOS ANGELES—IN JAMES GRAY'S "THE Yards," Mark Wahlberg played an ex-con drawn back into crime by buddy Joaquin Phoenix.

In writer-director Gray's "We Own The Night," Phoenix is a club manager with shady associates who's coaxed toward the right side of the law by his cop-brother Wahlberg.

You can't quite say Gray is repeating himself, but close enough.

Like "The Yards," "We Own the Night" is broody to the point of anesthesia and operatic to the verge of bombast. And like its predecessor, the new film takes itself far too seriously.

It's such a cliche to say the acting salvages the movie somewhat, but it's true here. Wahlberg is gruffly earnest in a more sober variation of the acerbic detective he played in last year's "The Departed," while the normally stoic Phoenix gets to show some range—explosive anger, wilting fear—this time around.

And even when Robert Duvall phones a role in, as he does in "We Own the Night" as Wahlberg and Phoenix's father, he elevates the story.

Set in New York in the late 1980s, the movie centers on a night spot managed by Bobby Green (Phoenix), a black sheep brother who uses his mother's maiden name so his associates won't know he comes from a family of policemen.

His brother, police Capt. Joseph Grusinsky (Wahlberg) and their dad (Duvall), a veteran lawman, try to enlist Bobby to keep an eye on a Russian crook suspected of operating his drug business out of the club.

Bobby huffily refuses, circumstance and bad guys intervene, and before you can say "to protect and serve," the prodigal son finds himself forced to choose between crime or justice.

Eva Mendes is tossed in as Bobby's girlfriend so he has something more than just his own skin to worry about.

Parts of the story strain plausibility as both police and thugs behave with extreme brainlessness. Why is it that movie cops never manage to protect people in witness protection? Why are mobster assassins able to shoot non-speaking extras in the head with pinpoint accuracy but miss the people they set out to kill?

It's also absurd to think that Bobby's use of his mom's last name would prevent the major Russian outlaws surrounding him from discovering his law-enforcement lineage. Even in the pre-Google age, these guys can't be that ill-informed.

The 1980s setting doesn't lend anything to the drama, which plays out like a generic police thriller that could have taken place any old time (though it is a bit refreshing not to see cops and criminals jabbering on cell phones).

David Germain, AP

Challenge to child psychologists on TV advocacy

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Monitoring teams should be organized to screen shows

FROM TIME TO TIME, CHILD PSYchologists write us to comment on the excesses or insufficiencies of some TV shows for young viewers.

We run their comments and hope that TV people are taking note of them, mindful of the fact that child psychologists are experts in determining the positive or negative effects of a host of factors. TV programs included, on vulnerable and impressionable young psyches.

Unfortunately, most experts' comments are shrugged aside by some TV people, perhaps because the suggested changes could affect the "commercial" attractiveness of the shows being singled out for improvement.

It's time, therefore, for concerned child psychologists, backed up by similarly worried parents and educators, to raise the persuasion level of their TV advocacy to a higher degree: Since the effects of television on Filipino children have become so pervasive these days, the country's child psychologists should make it a key official concern, mission and advocacy of their association.

It would be an important service to young Filipinos if, at their next meeting, our child psychologists would formalize this significant objective and set up a mechanism to achieve it.

Basically, they should organize viewing and monitoring teams to watch shows on local TV screens on a regular basis, citing both negative and positive practices they observe on them.

They should then write letters to the networks involved, detailing their observations and citing aspects of psychology involved in the infraction or praiseworthy element being singled out.

In addition, they should write letters to newspapers in this regard, so that many more reader-viewers can be informed about these positive or negative elements. More importantly, their psychological effects on children should be clearly explained.

This will go a long way in making both TV people and viewers understand why some experts are so concerned about quite a number of TV shows today. Their concern is no academic exercise, but is based on scientific studies, experience and proven effects of the electronic media on children through the years.

Aside from posing this challenge, we also hope that child-oriented TV shows will secure the services of psychologists as consultants, to make sure that changes are made *before* those programs are telecast. That way, elements psychologically injurious to young viewers can be improved on or edited out before they can negatively affect children.

Finally, we urge President Arroyo to appoint more child psychologists to the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. Since the MTRCB's main concern is the classification of films and television shows so that they won't adversely affect young viewers, it's important that many of its members should be professionally trained to determine this. More child psychologists in the MTRCB is the way to go.

It would also be good if the MTRCB could get some child psychologists to hold seminars and workshops to help its current members become more acutely aware of the positive and negative factors in TV-film productions that affect the country's millions of young viewers.

Our children's psychological health is so important that we need to do everything to achieve it, despite the threatening importuning of some TV-film productions.

Famas special awardee

VETERAN COLUMNIST ERNIE Pecho, who has covered the entertainment beat for four decades, is this year's recipient of the Famas Dr. Jose R. Perez Memorial Award for Journalism.

The 2007 Famas Awards night will be on Nov. 25 at Le Pavillion.

Ernie has written articles and columns for the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, Times Journal, Daily Globe, Malaya, Philippine Tribune, Daily Tribune, Philippine Daily Express, Expressweek, Manila Chronicle, Manila Times, Bandera, Bongga, Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin, Women's Journal, Pilipino Star Ngayon and PM.

A former president of the Philippine Movie Press Club and Philippine correspondent of Billboard Magazine, he has traveled across the globe, attending worldwide conferences, festivals and interviewing leading music artists and executives.

ERNIE Pecho

He was the first Filipino journalist to be invited to the MTV Europe Music Awards staged at Alexandra Palace in London, and at the MTV Movie (Golden Popcorn) Awards in Hollywood California, where he interviewed stars like Robin Williams, Jim Carrey and Alicia Silverstone.

"It has long been my cherished dream to win the Dr. Jose R. Perez Memorial Award," says Ernie of the distinction given in honor of the movie mogul. "Doc Perez was my idol in the field of public relations. Doc is incomparable and still unequalled as far as PR is concerned. I was also born on Oct. 15 like him."

Asian horror meets Freddie Krugger

From page H4

While the film is peppered with many fright ening and disturbing scenes, the terror does not always come at the exact moment the filmmakers pull off the scare. It comes in the few seconds that build up to the revelation, which makes the movie predictable.

Horror device

It may have something to do with the all-too important horror device called musical scoring. Despite the outstanding quality of the movie's scoring (the opening music is something you will never want to hear alone), the sound tends to prep you up for the scary scenes.

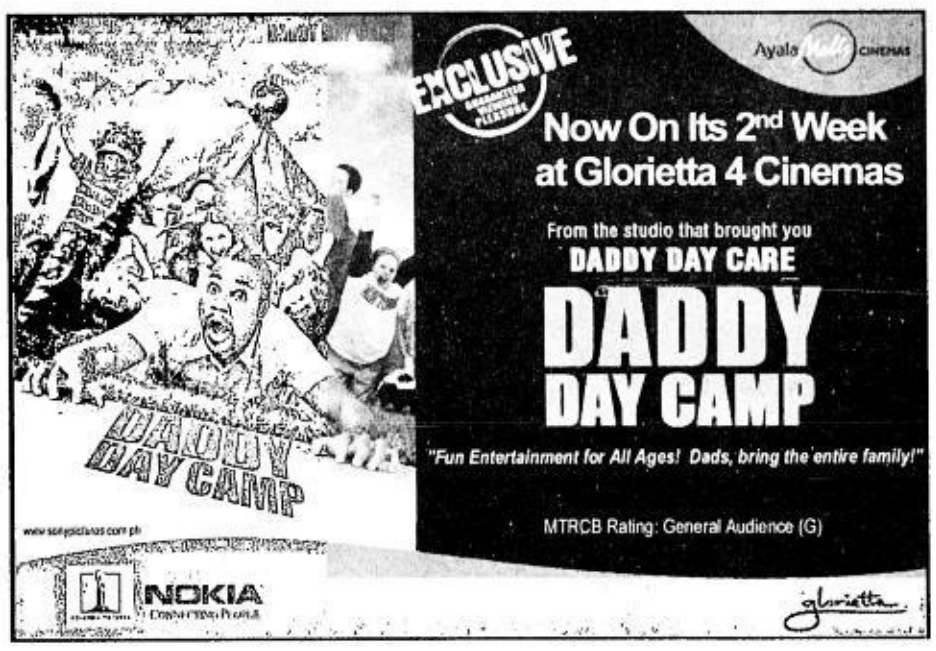
Is the predictability borne out of audiences' "third-eye" for scary moments, developed through years of watching too many horror movies?

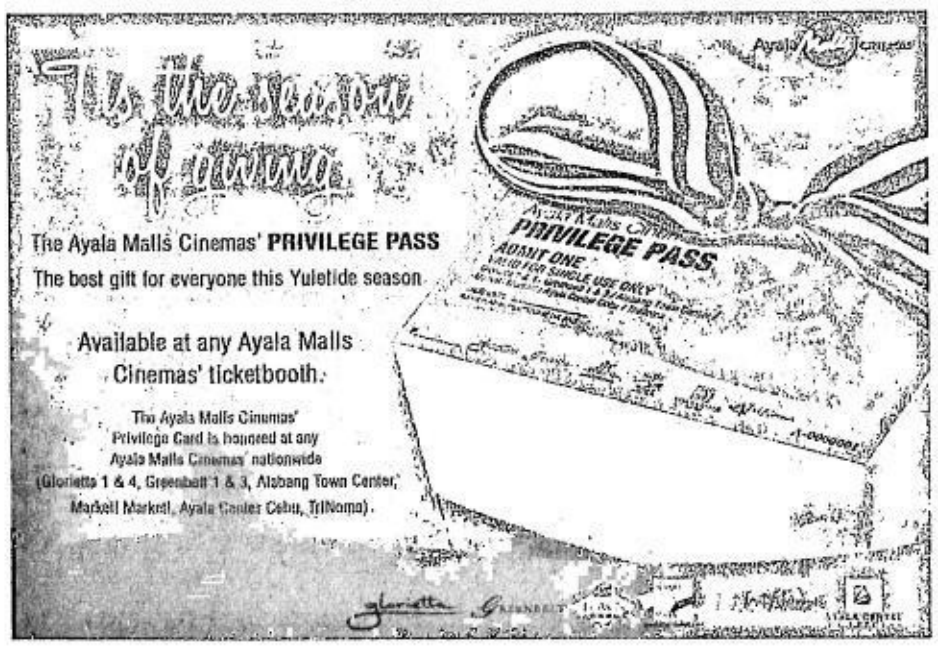
It would've been better if director Rayhan Carlos found a way to present these scenes with a little unpredictability.

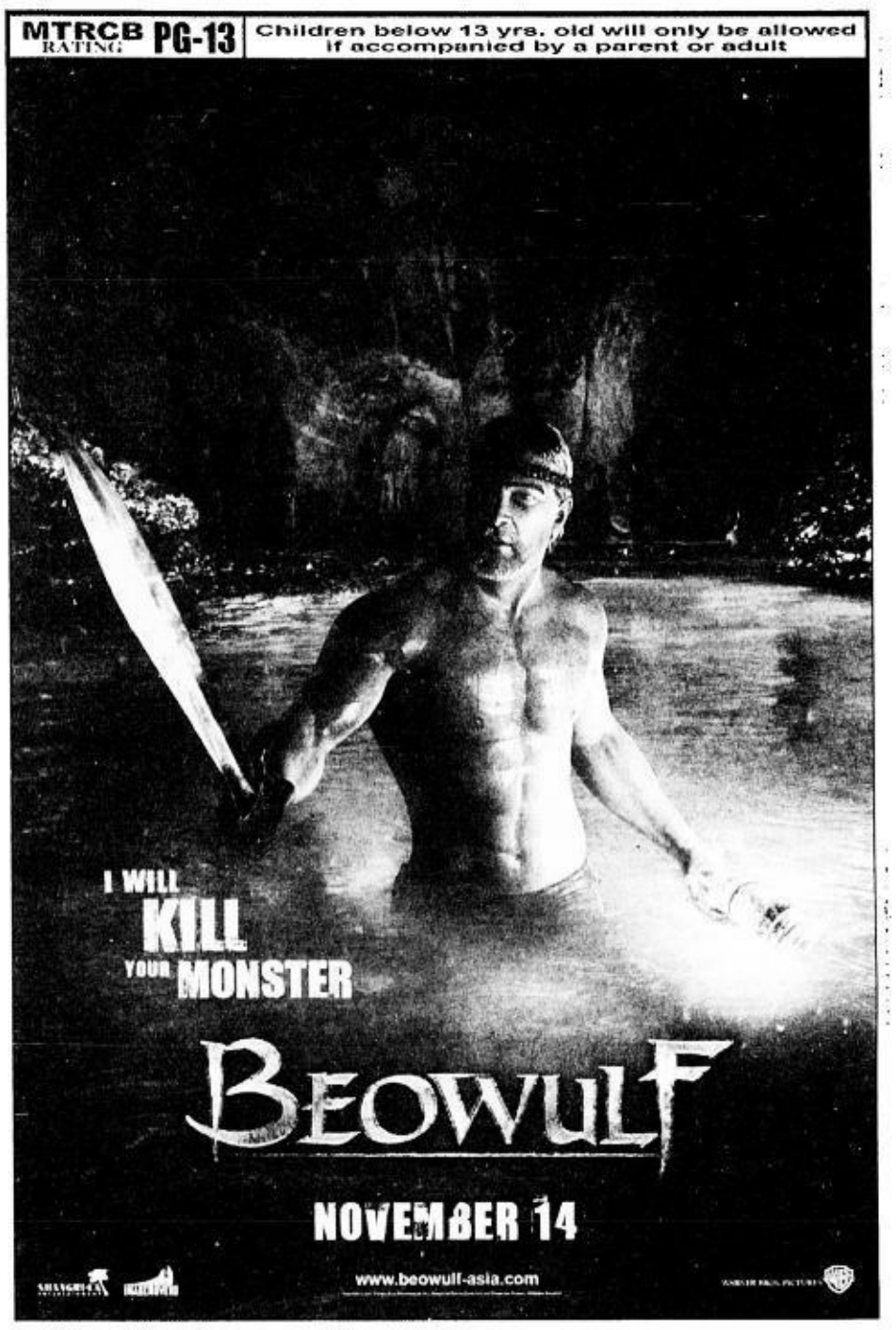
After all, it is these moments that make the hairs at the back of our necks stand. It is these moments that stay alive in our minds when we sleep with the lights on.

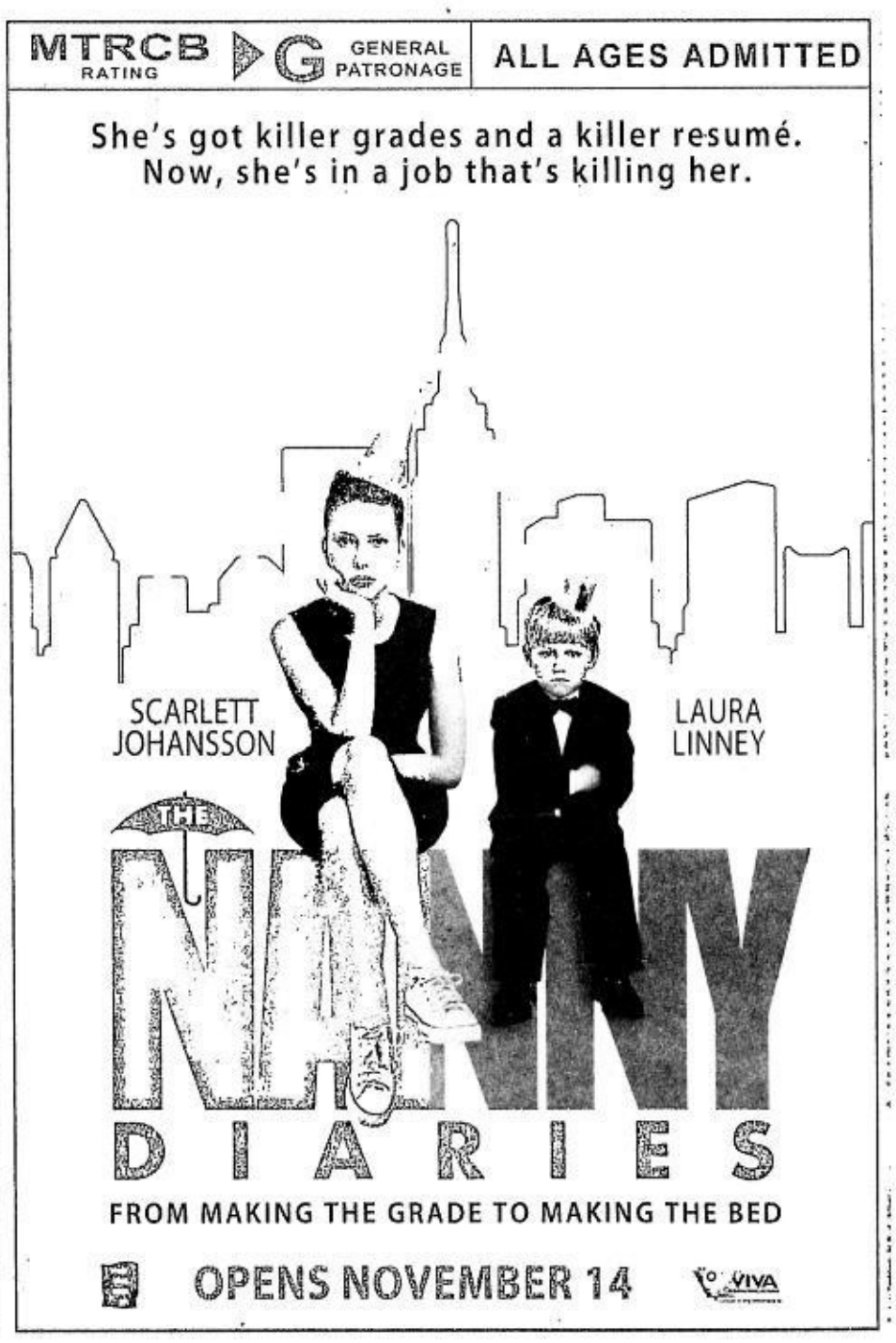
Our feeling is that Regal wanted the best of both worlds. To provide the ultimate Halloween fright fest, they crafted a good paranoia movie that doubles as a bad slasher flick.

This probably worked with some audiences. But to horror fans who keep talking over and over about "The Ring," "The Grudge," "Shutter" and Regal's very own "Feng Shui," the slasher aspect should have been hidden, because it's real terror that we seek.









Ang pinakamalaking kiddie-seryeng Pamaskong handog namin para sa buong pamilya!
Albert Martinez
Sheryl Cruz
Ai Ai delas Alas
Candy Pangilinan
Diether Ocampo
Carlos Agassi
Franz Bonnin
Angel Sy
Irish Fullerton
Sophia Baars
Bubbles Paraiso
Bianca Polmano
Divine Loraine Peñaflor
Julio Pisk
Sharlene San Pedro as
Princess Sarah
Melissa Ricks
Matt Evans
Jaime Fabregas
Sama ka na sa isang hapong puno ng kasayahan
as ABS-CBN Kapamilya Christmas Caravan presents Princess Sarah.
Ngayong 4pm sa Star City, CCP Complex, Pasay City.
BUKAS NA!
PRIMETIME BIDA
PBB Celebrity Edition 2 über
Kapamilya Deal or No Deal
TV Patrol World
PRINCESS SARAH
Pangarap na Bituin
Lastikman
PBB Celebrity Edition 2
Ysabella
ABS CBN

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2007

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
VISMIN PUBLIC AUCTION

VISMIN PROPERTIES: November 29, 2007 - Thursday - 2PM - [illegible], Waterfront Hotel, Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City
LUZON PROPERTIES: November 28, 2007 - Wednesday - 2PM - Mezzanine, Robinsons Summit, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

PROPERTIES AT VERY LOW PRICES! Financing Available 15% Downpayment Interest Rate for as low as 7.5% SHOW MONEY: P25,000 CASH or MC

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6 lots available for as low as Php514/sqm.

CAMILLE SUBDIVISION, BRGY. DALAKIT, CATARMAN, NORTHERN SAMAR
22 lots available for as low as Php1,361/sqm.

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LOT 1 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 4,023 sqm.
Floor Area various
Linabuan Norte, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price 7,435,000

BACOLOD
LOT 2 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,745 sqm.
Floor Area 760 sqm.
Brgy. Estefania, Burgos Extension
Minimum Bid Price 10,791,000

LOT 3 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 23,936 sqm.
Floor Area 36 sqm.
Brgy. Cabug
Minimum Bid Price 2,981,000

BOHOL
LOT 4 LOT ONLY
Lot Area [illegible]
Borja [illegible] Tagbilaran City
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price

CAGAYAN DE ORO
LOT 5 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 900 sqm.
Upper Canitoan
Minimum Bid Price 1,260,000

CAPIZ
LOT 6 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 9,997 sqm.
Balucuan, Dao
Minimum Bid Price 3,043,000

LOT 7 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Lot 1581-B-2-A Brgy. Banica, Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price 765,000

LOT 8 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Lot 1581-B-3-A-2 Brgy. Banica, Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price 637,500

LOT 9 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 10,000+10,000 sqm.
Bo. Dinginan, Brgy. Banica, Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price 4,555,000

DIPOLOG
LOT 10 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 3,182 sqm.
Jagis Beach Resort, Brgy. Road, Brgy. Galas, District III
Minimum Bid Price 4,781,000

LOT 11 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 603 sqm.
No. 147 Interior Kapitan Road, Poblacion, Labasan
Minimum Bid Price 788,000

LOT 12 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,941 sqm.
Brgy. Minaog
Minimum Bid Price 1,740,000

LOT 13 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 959 sqm.
National Highway, Brgy. Dawo, Dapitan City
Minimum Bid Price 818,000

GENERAL SANTOS
LOT 14 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,754 sqm.
NLSA Road, Prk. Masunurin, San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price 3,636,000

LOT 15 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 10,000 sqm.
Conel Road, Brgy. Lagao
Minimum Bid Price 2,381,000

LOT 16 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 11,187 sqm.
Dacera Subd., City Heights
Minimum Bid Price 5,514,000

LOT 17 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.
P. Acharon Blvd., Town Proper
Minimum Bid Price 12,750,000

LOT 18 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 450.50 sqm.
Champaca St., Brgy. Dadiangas East
Minimum Bid Price 5,681,000

ILO-ILO
LOT 19 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,643 sqm.
San Jose, Molo
Minimum Bid Price 2,310,000

LOT 20 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 13,397 sqm.
Poblacion, Janiuay
Minimum Bid Price 3,693,000

LEYTE
LOT 21 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 3,618 sqm.
Lot 15324-B Brgy. Owak, Hilongos
Minimum Bid Price 1,788,000

LOT 22 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 445 sqm.
Lot 1 Brgy. Naga-naga, Palo
Minimum Bid Price 1,696,000

LOT 23 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,300 sqm.
Lot 215 Babatngon Group Settlement, Brgy. Governor Jaro, Babatngon
Minimum Bid Price 863,000

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
LOT 24 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 20,000 sqm.
Brgy. Caridad, Bago City
Minimum Bid Price 3,889,000

LOT 25 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 23,142 sqm.
Poblacion, San Carlos City
Minimum Bid Price 13,608,000

LOT 26 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 11,571 sqm.
Poblacion, San Carlos City
Minimum Bid Price 6,122,000

LOT 27 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 10,800 sqm.
Poblacion, San Carlos City
Minimum Bid Price 10,069,000

ORMOC
LOT 28 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,556 sqm.
Lot 2-P-2 Bo. Doña Feliza, Mejia Village
Minimum Bid Price 2,721,000

LOT 29 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.
Lot 11771-B-2-H-14-C Brgy. Cogon, Combado
Minimum Bid Price 1,360,000

LOT 30 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,500 sqm.
Lot 11771-B-2-H-14-B Brgy. Cogon, Combado
Minimum Bid Price 2,040,000

LOT 31 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 6,667 sqm.
Lot 8567-D-4 Brgy. San Jose
Minimum Bid Price 2,572,000

LOT 32 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 10,889 sqm.
Lot 13-H-7 Bo. San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price 519,000

LOT 33 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 200 sqm.
Lot 2328-A-1-B Bo. Alegria
Minimum Bid Price 367,000

LOT 34 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,500 sqm.
Lot 5232-C-3 Brgy. Dayhagan (now part of San Isidro)
Minimum Bid Price 4,612,000

LOT 35 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,769 sqm.
Lot 2-I-2 Bo. Doña Feliza, Mejia Village
Minimum Bid Price 2,119,000

PAGADIAN
LOT 36 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 564 sqm.
A. Salazar St., Lumbia District
Minimum Bid Price 1,161,000

SOUTH COTABATO
LOT 37 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 40,257 sqm.
Provincial Road, Sulit, Polomolok
Minimum Bid Price 4,226,000

LOT 38 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,247 sqm.
Cannery Road, Sanchez Subd., Polomolok
Minimum Bid Price 2,995,000

LOT 39 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 119,904 sqm.
Brgy. Lunok, Upper Klinan, Polomolok
Minimum Bid Price 3,568,000

LOT 40 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,180 sqm.
National Highway (Tacurong-Isulan) Kalawag III, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 6,815,000

LOT 41 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,230 sqm.
National Highway (Surallah-Cotabato) Kalawag III, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 3,161,000

LOT 42 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 5,000 sqm.
National Highway (Surallah-Cotabato) Kalawag III, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 6,375,000

LOT 43 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 37,829 sqm.
National Highway (Surallah-Cotabato) Kalawag I, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 14,034,000

LOT 44 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,500 sqm.
Magbanua corner Lacorte Sts. Kalawag I, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 912,000

LOT 45 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,602 sqm.
Magbanua cor. Lasiste Sts. Pob., Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 3,378,000

LOT 46 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 983 sqm.
Nat'l Highway (Surallah-Cotabato), Kalawag III, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 6,840,000

LOT 47 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 264 sqm.
Kalawag III Road, Kalawag III, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 2,365,000

LOT 48 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,750 sqm.
National Road (going to Bagumbayan), Kalawag II, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price 1,770,000

LOT 49 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 93,319 sqm.
Lot 3-B Farm Road, Brgy. Upper Katungal, Tacurong
Minimum Bid Price 5,229,000

LOT 50 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 7,414 sqm.
Brgy. Road, Brgy. New Isabela, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price 7,810,000

LOT 51 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 9,069 sqm.
Nat'l Highway, New Carmen, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price 5,650,000

LOT 52 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 23,131 sqm.
National Highway, New Carmen, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price 20,100,000

LOT 53 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 745 sqm.
Paredes St., Zone 1, Poblacion, Koronadal City
Minimum Bid Price 2,235,000

TACLOBAN
LOT 54 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 156 + 150 + 145 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk.1, Lot 5 Blk 1 and Lot 3 Blk. 1 Don Vicente, V & G Subd. Caibaan
Minimum Bid Price 1,974,000

LOT 55 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 359 sqm.
Lot 423-A Rizal Ave. Ext.
Minimum Bid Price 1,131,000

ZAMBOANGA
LOT 56 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 4,500 sqm.
Floor Area 419 sqm.
Brgy. Road, Brgy. Tumaga
Minimum Bid Price 2,761,000

LOT 57 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 326 sqm.
National Road, Brgy. San Jose Gusu
Minimum Bid Price 3,593,000

LOT 58 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Floor Area 709 sqm.
Canelar Moret Rd., Montezuma Heights Subd., Brgy. Canelar
Minimum Bid Price 3,520,000

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Lot Area 298 + 773 sqm.
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PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY

INVITATION TO BID AND TO SUBMIT OFFER TO NEGOTIATE

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) invites all interested bidders/offerors to bid/negotiate for the SALE/LEASE/JOINT VENTURE on an **"as-is where-is"** basis of the following properties:

Location of Property	Area (sqm)	Floor Price (PhP)	
I. SECOND OFFERING – SALE			
1. Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga [a]	1,242	1,600,000	
2. Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija [a]	117	2,173,000	
3. Tugbok (Mintal), Davao City [a]	2,501	1,116,000	
4. Pasay City [a]	256 / 256	4,258,000	
5. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	635	2,222,500	
6. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	423	1,480,500	
7. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	2,050	8,200,000	
8. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	1,948	7,792,000	
9. San Roque, Bauan, Batangas	899	1,708,000	
10. Quiapo, Manila [a]	1,476	10,940,000	
II. SECOND OFFERING – LEASE			
Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite	614	29,932/mo.	359,190/yr.
III. NEGOTIATED SALE			
1. Sto. Domingo II, Capas, Tarlac [a]	3,751	2,521,000	
2. San Jose, Mindoro Occidental [b]	10,000	2,130,000	
3. Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite	614	7,982,000	
4. San Roque, Bauan, Batangas	1,202	4,447,000	
5. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	4,470	469,350	
6. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	6,529	685,545	
7. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	2,705	4,263,250	
8. Salapungan, Tarlac City [a]	1,185	3,318,000	
9. Talomo, Davao City	421	1,389,000	
10. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	231	231,000	
11. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	315	315,000	
12. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	356	356,000	
13. Kayumanggi, Lipa City, Batangas	625	850,000	
14. Tagbilaran, Bohol	1,388	1,041,000	
15. Tagbilaran, Bohol	4,367	4,367,000	
16. Andal-Aliño, Talavera, Nueva Ecija	396	356,000	
17. Gogon, Legazpi City	8,598	12,897,000	
IV. NEGOTIATED LEASE			
Brgy. Bolo, Bauan, Batangas	8,962	120,327/mo.	1,443,920/yr.
V. NEGOTIATED SALE or LEASE		Sale (PhP)	Lease (PhP)
1. Alangan, Limay, Bataan [a]	584,147	67,482,000	84,353/mo. 1,012,230/yr
2. PNOC Housing Compound *also open for Joint Venture Dev't.*	59,323	127,533,000	478,651/mo. 5,743,811/yr.

[a] with informal dwellers; [b] with informal dwellers, 615.76 sq.m. portion with existing lease and about 540 sq.m. traversed by a Brgy. Rd

Bid forms, Letter of Intent to Negotiate, Bidding/Negotiation Guidelines, Terms and Conditions may be secured from the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2/F, Estate Mgt. Dept., PNOC Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City from **Nov. 12-27, 2007** after payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00. The pre-bidding conference and the public bidding shall be conducted on **Nov. 28, 2007 (2:00pm)** and **Dec. 12, 2007 (2:15pm)**, respectively, at the G/F PNOC Bldg. 6.

For the **Joint Venture of PNOC Bauan Housing**, interested parties shall submit the required Eligibility Documents. Eligible offerors shall be required to pay a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 and submit a proposal to PNOC at the above address.

Award of the sale/lease/joint venture of the above properties shall be based on the **BEST BID/OFFER** received from the bidders/offerors.

For properties for negotiation (under Items III, IV and V), offerors may submit their Letter of Intent to PNOC starting the first working day after the first publication of this Notice.

The Bidder/Offeror acknowledges that he/she inspected the properties and verified the titles thereof. The winning bidder/offeror upon receipt of the Notice of Award and after making full payment shall enter the property without seeking the assistance of PNOC. Should the above-mentioned dates be declared non-working holidays, the bidding activities shall be held on the next working day. PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all bids/offers or to waive any formality thereto and/or to accept any such bids/offers or portions thereof as may be advantageous to PNOC. For inquiries, please call tel. nos. 8126071 or 8126209 loc. 2302 or 2308 or cellphone no. 0917-8405994.

(Sgd.) ATTY. BERNADETTE B. JUGAN
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Utilization of PNOC Real Estate Properties

(PDI - Nov. 11 & 12, 2007)

Keppel Philippines Marine

Keppel Philippines Marine, Inc. (KPMI) is a member of a 20-yard strong global network owned by Singapore-based Keppel Offshore & Marine Ltd., one of the world's largest offshore and marine groups.

In line with its commitment to serve the community and promote the offshore and marine industry, KPMI is offering a Management Trainee Program that will provide intensive training in any of our local shipyards to graduating college students of the following courses:

1. Mechanical Engineering
2. Industrial Engineering
3. Civil Engineering
4. Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering
5. Business Administration
6. Accountancy
7. Information Technology

We also invite newly graduate Engineers with equivalent courses to apply as Trainee Engineers and willing to be assigned at our Keppel Batangas yard.

Please send your resumé with supporting credentials and a recent 2x2 photo via e-mail to **"grouphr@keppelpm.com"** not later than 19 November 2007. Previous applicant need not apply.

You may also submit your application in person at the address shown below. Know more about our company by visiting our website at **www.keppelphilippinesmarineinc.com**

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Makati City

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12	units	Air handling units
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4	units	Cooling towers
1	lot	Air-conditioning piping
2	units	Open type air conditioning 30 ton capacity
1	lot	Unserviceable office equipment, furniture, fixtures and kitchen utensils
	lot	Mechanical equipment, lamford alternator, water pump and electric motors
1	unit	Unserviceable Isuzu truck
1	pc	Cadillac frame without engine
1	lot	Condenser 20 TR
1	lot	Other scrap materials

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 5:00 p.m. on December 4, 2007 at Property and Supply Division, Finance and Administrative Building, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City and shall then and there be opened for the sale of the items bidded. Pre-bid conference shall be held on November 23, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the above address.

All bids must be submitted with the proposal bond deposit in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to 10% of the total bid price.

The said items are available for inspection right after the pre-bid conference until 4:00 p.m. and on November 27, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional information and bid forms may be secured from MS. LEONILA S. DE DIOS at the above address or call telephone numbers 832-3609 and 551-0030.

The CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be advantageous to the Center.

(Sgd.) TERESA S. RANCES
Chairman, Committee on Disposal

(PDI - Nov. 10, 11 & 18, 2007)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(DND-Proper Procurement of Goods)

I. The Department of National Defense, through the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee, invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Project A. *(Re-Bidding)*

Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
1. Vehicles and Motorcycles	Supply and Delivery of Vehicles and Motorcycles for use of PDR Office	1,200,000.00
	TOTAL	PhP 1,200,000.00

Project B. *(Bidding)*

Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
1. Other Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Assorted Other Supplies for use of OSND Offices	PhP 619,000.00
2. Drugs and Medicines	Supply and Delivery of Assorted Drugs and Medicines for use of OSND Offices	1,510,250.00
	TOTAL	PhP 2,129,250.00

II. The schedules of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	DND Proper BAC Secretariat, OASIL Rm 203, 2nd Floor DND Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City	November 12-26, 2007	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	OASPER Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Building	November 15, 2007	10:00 AM
Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	OASPER Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Building	November 27, 2007	9:00 AM
Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003		
Post-Qualification			
Issuance of Notice of Award			

III. Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount as indicated below to the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat, Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Tel No. 911-8118:

Name of Project	Cost of Bidding Documents
Project A. *(Re-Bidding)*	
1. Vehicle and Motorcycles	1,200.00
Project B. *(Bidding)*	
1. Other Supplies	700.00
2. Drugs and Medicines	1,500.00

IV. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A).

V. All prospective bidders are encouraged to apply for a certificate of eligibility not later than two (2) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids.

VI. The OSND assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

VII. The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee (DND-Proper BAC).

VIII. The Invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org, and the DND website at www.dnd.gov.ph, in accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. Further, it shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of National Defense (DND)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUBEN F CIRON
Chairman, DND-Proper BAC

(PDI - Nov. 11, 2007)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Stockholders of Trusteeship, Inc. be held on the 19th day of November 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the office of the corporation at No. 3169 V. Mapa Extension, Sta. Mesa, Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines to take action on the Resolution of the Board of Directors for the Dissolution of Trusteeship, Inc. and its affairs wound up.
October 25 2007
Manila, Philippines
(Sgd.) Ma. Angela B. Trillana
Corporate Secretary
PDI–Oct. 28, Nov. 4 &11, 2007

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig City; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on November 17, 2007 at 9:00 am.Including all items pawned up to June, 2007 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer
(PDI-November 11, 2007)

Marilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M & R Bldg., Tabing-Ilog Marilao, Bul. All Unredeemed Pledges of MAY 2007 willl be Auctioned on NOV 24 9:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer.
(PDI- NOV 11, 2007)

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop, Allw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of MAY 2007 willl be Auctioned on NOV 24, 10:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer.
(PDI- Nov. 11, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late RODOLFO S. SAN ANTONIO was extrajudically settled among his heirs per Doc No. 349, Page No. 71, Book No. I, Series of 2007 before Notary Public Jose L. Magsanoc of Marikina City (PDI Oct. 28, Nov. 4 & 11, 2007)

Notice is given on the estate of the late Marcos Caldo the 2 lots at Mla Meml Prk-Dasmariñas Lot A&B-Blk3 Narra Hills is adjudicated to Marciana Caldo by virtue of public doc. exec. on Sept.11. 2007 & ratified B4 Atty. Ulpiano S. Madamba Doc 251 Page52 BookIX Series of 2007
(PDI-Nov. 4, 11 &18, 2007)

Notice is given that the heirs of EVELINA M. BOONGALING executed declaration of heirship with waiver of rights as per Doc. No. 11035 Page No. 032 Book No. XVIII Series 2007 of Notary Public Godofredo N. Trajano of Batangas Province. (PDI -Nov 11,18 & 25, 2007)

Notice is hereby given to the public that the estate of the late FELIX D. MABUNAY has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs upon execution of the Declaration of Heirship and Renunciation of Hereditary Rights recorded as Doc.No. 286,Page No. 58,.Book No. XXXI,Series of 2007,under Notary Public Jayme A. Sy.Jr. of Bacolod City on August 22,2007;and also recorded as Document No. 07702,Seriesof 2007, before Atty.Leandro B. Lachica,Vice Consul,Foreign Services of the Philippines,Consulate General of the Philippines, New York,USA on September 19,2007
(PDI-Oct. 28,Nov. 4 & 11,2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CARMEN M. PEREZ HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY BY HER HEIRS AS PER DOC.#59, PAGE #13, BOOK # I-H, SERIES OF 2007 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC JIMMY D. LACEBAL OF MANDALUYONG CITY.
(PDI- Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CARLA REGINA CHUA CHIACO-ARANETA was extrajudicially partitioned by and among her heirs as per Doc. 253 Pg. 106 book LVIII Series of 2007 before Notary Public Renan R. Osero of Makati City (PDI-Oct.28,Nov.4&11, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late EDUARDO BOOC JUMAO-AS was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 164, Page No. 33, Book No. 14, Series of 2007 under Notary Public Atty. Joselito S. Fernandez. (Oct. 28,Nov.4&11,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Marcial N. Moral was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 214 Page No. 43 Book No. LIV Series of 2007 under Notary Public Atty. Donato C. Mangulat of Quezon City (PDI-Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Rural Bank of Mabitac,Stock Certificates Nos. 19,20,60,160,092,130 issued to ELIAS POBLETE reportedly lost if no contest is received New Certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 11,18 & 25'07)

South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
SOCOTECO II
Jose Catolico Ave., Lagao, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. 552-4313; 552-4276; 301-4567; 301-4568
Fax No. 552-4856 • E-mail: power@socoteco2.com

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOCOTECO II) is inviting all interested bidders to Pre-qualify and to Bid for the following:

1. KASPERSKY ENTERPRISES SPACE SECURITY (50 USERS, 2 YEARS)	1 PKG
2. WINDOWS 2003 SERVER R2 ENTERPRISE X64 EDITION ENG. OLP.	1 SET
3. WINDOWS SERVER CALS 2003 ENTERPRISE ENG. OLP NL USER CAL	25 UNITS
4. WINDOWS 2003 SERVER ENTERPRISE X64 EDITION ENG. DISK KIT MVL C	1 SET
5. SQL SERVER 2005 ENTERPRISE X64 EDITION ENG. OLPNL	1 SET
6. SQL SERVER DEVICE CALS 2005 ENTERPRISE X64 EDTN. ENG. OLP NL	25 UNITS
7. SQL SERVER 2005 ENTERPRISE X64 EDTN. ENG. DISK KIT MVL CD	1 SET
8. MICROSOFT VISUAL STUDIO 2005 PROFESSIONAL EDTN. FULL PRODUCT	1 SET
9. HP PROLIANT DL585G2 SERVER	1 UNIT

To be qualified, Bidder must have fully complied with the following:
Accreditation Requirements
A. Company Profile
B. Business Registration
C. BIR/VAT Certificate of Registration
D. Business Permit
E. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
F. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years

SUBMISSION TO THE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE
OIC-Bid and Award Chairperson – NORMA S. CASTARDO

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUIREMENTS – NOVEMBER 15, 2007

(Sgd.) NORMA S. CASTARDO
OIC-BAC CHAIRPERSON

Noted by:

(Sgd.) Engr. Rodolfo G. Ocat
General Manager

(PDI–Nov. 10 & 11, 2007)

***ATTENTION:* CONDOMINIUM & SUBDIVISION DEVELOPERS!**
JOIN THE
GLOBAL PINOY SALES CARAVAN 2008
Reach cost & effective tri-media exposure and direct marketing/ door-to-door selling in the $ 3B U.S. Market!
California – Nevada – Florida – Michigan – New York – Texas
(January 18 to December 12, 2008)
Organized by
Global Pinoy International Roadshow, Inc.
Global Pinoy Real Estate, Inc.
New Asia Realty Company
Condo.Com.Ph, Inc. / Condo Central Magazine
For participation inquiries, please call:
Ms. Rose Espina 0928-5002391
Mr. Daniel Dela Cruz – 0919-8504468
Email: newasiarealty@yahoo.com

FOR SALE

1 unit Wet Mix Batching Plant
- Simem WETBETON 45 computerized – Italy (acquired by owner brand new);
- With 3 cement silos (9,000 bags capacity)
- Includes: twin shaft central mixer; cement batcher; 4 compartment aggregate bin; aggregate weighing conveyor; air compressor and control room.

1 unit Dry Mix Batching Plant
- With 3 units cement silos (9,000 bags capacity);
- Includes: cement, water & aggregate batcher; aggregate conveyor; control panel; circuit panel board, elevated water tank & submersible pump.

Contact: Lala, Tel. No. 682-1057 / 645-0911 or 0921-5468068

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Original Stocks Certificates registered under the name of FELIX D. MABUNAY more particularly described as BPI Stock Certificate No. 177199 for 1,003 shares and Ayala Corporation Stock Certificate Nos. A34425 for 656 shares and A63269 for 1, 350 shares,have been inadvertently lost and could not be recovered.As such,an Affidavit of Loss was executed to the effect by Guinevere Rey Mabunay,wife and heir of the owner,and recorded as Doc. No. 289,Page No. 58,Book No. XXXI,Series of 2007 of the Notarial Register of Atty. Jayme A. Sy,Jr. of Bacolod City on August 22,2007
(PDI-Oct. 28&Nov. 4&11,2007)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW CONSIGN Infant Kid Teen Adult wear09178830002

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX SWISS WATCHES BEST PRICE 7269687•0917-8884040

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ACCTG/SEC Coll Grad F 7224407•2833766•2826552

Architectural graduate with or without experience call: 912-1442 & 913-5691

IMMEDIATE HIRING HAIRDRESSER Male/Female Please call 8905576/09209537335

INVITATION TO BID
"AS IS WHERE IS"
DAMAGED MOTOR VEHICLES
2006 TOYOTA CAMRY
2003 NISSAN EXALTA
2006 HONDA CITY
For particulars, call 812-4520

SALE / JOINT VENTURE
ORTIGAS CENTER
(2000 sqm)
Call /Text (0917) 6310324

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DEPED - MARIKNA CITY OSEC DECSB-MTCHR2-30747 MTCH1-31484 TCH3-36275 30043 36268 36297 TCH2-36025 36089 36104 36075 TCH1-47575 47949 47780 36159-47893-47963-4 7904 47967-47847

Item # OSEC - DECSB TCH1 54958-1998 TCHRI PBET-Passer

NAIL TECHNICIAN with experience Apply at 243 Bellagio Square Tomas Morato corner Scout Fuentebella QC Call 376-6008 Katherine

OPTHOMETRIST and SALES Pls Call Rose 6876160

Teacher 3 OSEC-DECS B34976 Teacher 2 OSEC-DECS B35251 & OSEC-DECS B35252 DepEd Makati Bangkal Elem Sch.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

URGENT DRAFTSMAN SUBMIT RESUME 5F PRUDENTIALIFE BLDG 843 A ARNAIZ AVE MKT CITY 8138420/8133568

URGENT STRUCTURAL ENGR SUBMIT RESUME 5F PRUDENTIALIFE BLDG., 843 A ARNAIZ AVE MAKATI CITY

FEMALE

F-LADY DENTIST W/ EXP. PREF. FR CAINTA/ANTIPOLO AREA CALL 661-2015

HOUSE MANAGER (w/ exp. & can cook) For Forbes Park Resident 30-45 y/o Female 09178348790 / 7505346 Malen / Lalaine

LIC. MEDTECH MLA 521-0531

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna 4031

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
(For supplies, materials, equipment, and non-personal services)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the following item.

Reference No.	Item	End-User	Approved Budget (P)
UPLB-165-07	Various Laboratory Equipment (1)	ADSC-CA	1,780,000.00
UPLB-166-07	Various Laboratory Equipment (2)	ADSC-CA	1,805,000.00
UPLB-167-07	Various Laboratory Equipment (3)	Various Units	1,421,223.45
UPLB-168-07	High Performance Liquid Chromatograph System (HPLC)	ADSC-CA	3,000,000.00
UPLB-169-07	Chemicals and Laboratory Supplies	Various Units	1,691,667.00

Interested parties may secure the bidding documents from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat (BAC-Sec) Office at the International House complex, UP Los Baños. The bid forms may also be downloaded either from UPLB website (http://admin.uplb.edu.ph/bac) or PhilGEPS (https://www.philgeps.net/GEPS). Bidding fee shall be required from the bidders payable upon securing of the bid documents from the BAC-Sec Office or upon submission of eligibility requirements or on the day of submission/opening of bids.

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Bid Documents	Starts on November 12, 2007 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	BAC-SEC
Pre-Bidding Conference	November 15, 2007 1:00 PM	BAC-SEC
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	On or before November 27, 2007 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	BAC-SEC
Submission/Opening of Bids	November 29, 2007 10:00 AM	BAC-SEC

The UPLB reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Inquiries may be forwarded to Alexis C. del Rosario, Chair, BAC-Secretariat at telephone nos. (049) 536-8419 or 536-8420.

ARSENIO N. RESURRECCION
Chair, BAC

(PDI–Nov. 11, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
NEDA-sa-Pasig, 12 Saint Josemaría Escrivá Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
P.O. Box 419, Greenhills • Tels. 631-0945 to 64
http://www.neda.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is inviting prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for (a) One Job Provision of Security Services; (b) One Job Provision of Janitorial Services for the NEDA Buildings located in Pasig City, Quezon City and Makati City; and (c) One Job Provision of Internet Connection to the NEDA Central Office for One (1) Year.

Interested parties may secure the bidding documents at the NBAC Secretariat upon payment of non-refundable fee of PhP 3,000 for Security Services, PhP 2,500 for Janitorial Services and PhP 500.00 for Internet Connection Services from November 12-26, 2007.

Participation in this bidding shall require accreditation with the NEDA and the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS). For G-EPS accreditation, you may register online through www.procurementservice.org. For NEDA accreditation, please register with the NEDA Administrative Staff-Property, Procurement, and Transport Service (PPTS), 2/F, NEDA-sa-Pasig Building, Telephone No. 631-3715.

Procurement	Approved Budget for the Contract	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
Security Services	Php 7,719,060.00	November 27, 2007, 10 a.m., DIOC Conference Rm., G/F NEDA sa Pasig	December 11, 2007, 12 nn, Legal Staff, G/F NEDA sa Pasig	December 11, 2007, 1 p.m., DIOC Conference Rm., G/F NEDA sa Pasig
Janitorial Services	Php 4,887,020.00	November 27, 2007, 1 p.m., DIOC Conference Rm., G/F NEDA sa Pasig	December 11, 2007, 2 p.m., Legal Staff, G/F NEDA sa Pasig	December 11, 2007, 3 p.m., DIOC Conference Rm., G/F NEDA sa Pasig
Internet Connection Services	Php 900,000.00	November 27, 2007, 3 p.m., DIOC Conference Rm., G/F NEDA sa Pasig	December 11, 2007, 10 a.m., Legal Staff, G/F NEDA sa Pasig	December 11, 2007, 11 a.m., DIOC Conference Rm., G/F NEDA sa Pasig

Bids must be delivered to the NBAC Secretariat, Legal Staff, G/F # 12 St. Josemaría Escriva Drive, NEDA-sa-Pasig, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount specified in the Instructions to Bidders. Late bids shall not be accepted.

NEDA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) ADG RUBEN S. REINOSO, JR.
Chairperson, NEDA Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – November 11, 2007)

PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT CORPORATION
S & L Building, 1500 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila, Philippines
Telephone Nos.: (632) 525-92-71 to 75
Fax No.: (632) 525-83-76; 524-89-89

NOTICE OF REBID

FOR SALE THROUGH SEALED BIDDING
ON CASH "AS IS, WHERE IS," BASIS

PNOC MOTOR TANKER
(MT) GOMBURZA

LOA	95.65 M
LBP	89.40 M
BREADTH	14.00 M
DEPTH	5.80 M
LIGHT DISPLACEMENT WEIGHT	1,410.71 TONS
GROSS TONNAGE	1,994.22
YEAR BUILT	1980
CLASSIFICATION	BV

The minimum bid price shall be FORTY TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS (P42,205,800.00)

Above vessel home port is Lamao, Limay, Bataan.

Bid form can be secured from Finance-Admin. Department c/o Mr. Raoul Trinidad 7th Floor Room 718 of the same address from **November 09, 2007 to November 19, 2007** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Sealed bids should be dropped in a bid box provided at Room 718 not later than **2:00 P.M. November 19, 2007** upon which bids shall be opened in the presence of participating bidders.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled on **13 November 2007 at 10:00 in the morning** at the PSTC Board Room, at the same address.

A bidder's deposit equivalent to two and one-half percent (2 1/2%) of the minimum bid price stated above or One Million Fifty Five Thousand One Hundred Forty Five Pesos (P1,055,145.00) in the form of cash, cashier's or manager's check is required. Bid indicated should be inclusive of twelve (12%) percent Expanded Value Added Tax (EVAT).

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Raoul Trinidad at telephone No. 525-92-89. You can also send your e-mail at **brumerasia@yahoo.com** or you can fax at 525-83-76.

The PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bids, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO E. AGBAY
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – November 11, 2007)

LB (Land Bank) Realty Development Corporation
A Subsidiary of the Land Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Land Bank Realty Development Corporation (LBRDC)** through its **Committee on Bids and Awards (CBA)**, invites all contractors, registered with and classified at least **"(SMALL/MEDIUM)"** by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) for Building and Industrial Plant to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

PROJECT	CONTRACT DURATION/FUNDING	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
LBP PASEO DE ROXAS BRANCH RENOVATION (RE-BID)	50 CD, LBRDC FUND	P 751,528.09
LBP MANDALUYONG E.O. BRANCH RENOVATION (RE-BID)	75 CD, LBRDC FUND	P 1,330,577.44
LBP CALAMBA E.O. BRANCH RELOC/RENOV.	75 CD, LBRDC FUND	P 1,947,641.90

The Schedule of CBA activities are as follows:

Activities	Date/Time	Venue
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including application for Eligibility	NOV. 12-19, 2007 @ 9:30-4:30 PM	LBRDC
2. Issuance of Eligibility Documents	NOV. 21-28, 2007 @ 9:30-4:30 PM	LBRDC
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	NOV. 29, 2007 @ 2:30 PM	LBRDC
4. Issuance of Bidding Documents	DEC. 04-11, 2007 @ 9:30-4:30 PM	LBRDC
5. Pre-Bidding Conference	DEC. 13, 2007 @ 2:00 PM	LBRDC
6. Opening of Bids (Bidding)	DECEMBER 27, 2007 @ 2:00 PM	LBRDC

LBRDC will issue to prospective bidders the Eligibility Forms at Land Bank Realty Development Corporation's (LBRDC) Offices at the 30/F, Land Bank Plaza, 598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila upon their submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI), presentation of the original copy of their contractor's license issued by PCAB, and upon payment of a non-refundable and non-transferable fee of **P500.00**. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements and may obtain the results of the Eligibility Checks based on the schedule above. Bid Documents will be made available for issuance to eligible bidders upon presentation of their Notice of Eligibility and payment of a non-refundable fee of **P1,000.00**.

LBRDC reserves the right to change the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission and opening of bids.

LBRDC likewise reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor whose bid is evaluated to be most advantageous to LBRDC. Furthermore, LBRDC is not obliged to compensate/indemnify contractors for any epxense or loss that contractors may incur in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

For further details, please call **Mr. Allan Redondo/Aries L. Mendoza/Nenette Camingawan** at 405-7169 / 405-7402 / 405-7135.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. SERGIO R. BERNARDO**
Committee on Bids and Awards

(PDI–Nov. 11, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
November 11, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	AMPLUS TECHNOLOGIES, INC. CPIP, Brgy. Batino, Calamba City	Mr. Youngseob Kim/ Korean	Warehouse Manager
2.	C-K DRIVING RANGE, INC. Brgy. Putol Magdalo, Kawit, Cavite	Mr. Wan Sun Kim/ Korean	President
3.	88 SPA & RESORT, INC. 9061 Nat'l. Highway, Bagong Kalsada, Calamba City	Ms. Meiyu Jin/ Chinese	Manager
4.	YOUNG MIN INTERNATIONAL, INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Youngkieun Soung/ Korean	President
5.	K & K MOLDING, INC. Lima Technology Center, Lipa City	Mr. Fukuo Hanzaki/ Japanese	President
6.	ON TIME MANUFACTURING, INC. LIIP, Brgy. Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Sang Min Lee/ Korean	Sample Manager
7.	FTN GARMENTS CORPORATION Brgy. Maguyam, Silang, Cavite	Ms. Songlan Zhao/ Chinese	Sewing Supervisor
8.	ILJIN INDUSTRIES PHILIPPINES, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Guangbin Li/ Chinese	Mechanic
9.	ROCK INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO, INC. CPIP, Brgy. Batino, Calamba City	Mr. Chen Su/ Chinese	Technician
10.	ROCK INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO, INC. CPIP, Brgy. Batino, Calamba City	Mr. Hailiang Wen/ Chinese	Technician
11.	PHILIPPINE SANITARY FITTINGS, INC. FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Makoto Hasegawa/ Japanese	Technical Consultant
12.	HITEC RCD PHILIPPINES, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Sang Eun Yoon/ Korean	Warehouse Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI–November 11, 2007)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex,
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE I

Telefax: 636-6543
Direct Line: 633-9343
Trunk Line: 632-13-01 locals 2094
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(Rebid)

The General Services Division (GSD) through the Department of Education-Bids and Awards Committee I (DepED-BAC I) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for Supply of Services for Ground Maintenance of DepED Central Office for CY 2007-2008.

Package	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Pre-bid Conference	Bid Submission deadline/Opening of Bids	End-User
Supply of Services for Ground Maintenance of DepED Central Office for CY 2007-2008	Php2,950,000.00	November 20, 2007, 2:00 p.m. Venue: LCC Conference Room, 4th Flr., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	December 4, 2007, 2:00 p.m. Venue: LCC Conference Room, 4th Flr., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	General Services Division

Bids received that exceed the ABC will be rejected at bid opening.

Bidders may submit bids on or before December 4, 2007 during office hours to the BAC I Chairperson through the BAC I Secretariat at the address indicated in the next paragraph.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC I Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on **November 12, 2007** upon payment in cash of a non-refundable fee of **Php2,000.00** to the DepED Cashier.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures under R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42/633-93-43.

DepED-BAC I reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **TEODOSIO C. SANGIL, JR.**
Undersecretary and BAC I Chairperson

(PDI - Nov. 11, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Office of the Regional Director
Revenue Region No. 03
Tuguegarao City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

Name of Project	:	SECURITY AND JANITORIAL SERVICES
Location	:	BIR, Revenue Region No. 03, Tuguegarao City
Approved Budget	:	Security Services – P1,558,181.52 Janitorial Services – P489,698.28
Contract Duration	:	January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

All interested parties may get the bidding requirements/terms from Mrs. Alma A. Ventura, Head, BAC Secretariat, BIR Regional Office No. 03, ATI Bldg., Don Domingo, Tuguegarao City starting November 13, 2007. Submission of the sealed bids will be until December 19, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. The opening of envelopes 1 & 2 (legal and technical documents) will be on November 19, 2007 while the opening of envelope 3 (Financial Proposal) and deliberation will be at 9:00 a.m. on December 20, 2007 and will be held at the BIR Regional Office. A Pre-bid Conference will be conducted on December 6, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Conference Hall, BIR Regional Office.

The criteria to be used by the BIR are the following: a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; b) examination and evaluation of bids; and c) post-evaluation shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The BIR-BAC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids mostly advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat at tel. no. 844-2883.

APPROVED:

(Sgd.) THELMA S. MILABAO
Asst. Regional Director
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Certified Correct:

(Sgd.) ALMA A. VENTURA
Head, BAC Secretariat

(PDI–Nov. 11 & 18, 2007)

Mariel y Juan in concert

Mariel Ilusorio and Juan Luis Muñoz

ON THURSDAY, Nov 29 at 7p.m., world class pianist Mariel Ilusorio, together with violinist-conductor, Juan Luis Muñoz, returnto the Philippine concert stage, this time at St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scho-lastica's College, presented by the Sr. Baptista Battig's Music Foundation for the benefit of its music scholars.

Mariel has won various international competitions, including the Grand Prize in the Carlo Soliva Piano Competition in Italy. She earned her Pre-College Diploma in Julliard, her Bachelor of Music from Ohio's Oberlin Conservatory of Music and her Masteral and Doctoral Degrees in Piano Performance in Hannover's State Academy in Germany.

Juan Luis Muñoz has been in South Africa for many years, playing a vital role in the country's musical life. Born in Chile, he studied under Professor Fernando Ansaldi and Professor Sergio Prieto at the Catholic University of Santiago, Chile.

He toured Chile, Argentina and Peru as soloist and concert master of the MINEDUC orchestra and performed as concert master of Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra. He founded the Cape Town Baroque Ensemble of which he is the conductor.

The duo described as, "two highly accomplished artists in perfect harmony with their scores and with each other," will enthrall Philippine audience, again, with their program of Haydn, Abelardo, Mozart and Rachmaninoff's 2nd Concerto as finale with Mariel as soloist and Juan Luis conducting the Manila Symphony Orchestra.

For more information, call 526-8080.

You better watch out, you better not cry,
You better not pout, we're telling you why...

PUREFOODS HORMEL

The Purefoods Hormel Company, Inc.
is coming to town!

Help bring Christmas to millions of Filipino homes.

The Purefoods Hormel Company Inc., makers of value-added processed meats, is in need of

TRUCKERS

(who have been good all year) to help spread **volumes of Christmas Products** from its Marikina and Cavite plants to the Greater Manila Area and the Luzon Provincial Areas.

We're making a list, and checking it twice. If you fit the description, then that would be nice!

Truck Type	AUV's/Trucks (1.0-10.0 tons capacity)
Body Type	Refrigerated/Insulated/Closed Vans
Contract Period	October 01, 2007 to December 31, 2007

To find out how you can bring Christmas to town and earn from it, contact:

MR. PERRY C. RUTAQUIO
At the following address and telephone numbers:
THE PUREFOODS-HORMEL COMPANY, INC.
Barrio San Roque, Marikina City
Telephone Nos. 645-3251 to 55 • Local 253, 257, 258 and 340
Fax Number 645-4535 and 646-9556 • Cellular No. 0917-8050116

Where you find the best.

JOB Market

Read it every Sunday in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

Service Contractors & Manpower Cooperatives can they marry & live happily ever after?

THE PHIL. ASSOCIATION OF Local Service Contractors (PALSCON) in cooperation with the Dept. of Labor & Employment will hold a special forum on Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007 (1-5 pm only) at the Technopark Hotel, Greenfield Autopark, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The centerpiece of this special forum is clarifying applicability of D.O. 18-02, series of 2002, to Manpower Cooperatives as per DOLE Circular 01-07 issued by Secretary Arturo Brion of the Dept. of Labor.

The guest speaker is Atty. Rebecca Chato, Director of Labor Relations, DOLE, Atty. Ricardo Martinez, Director for Region IV will also Grace the occasion.

Registration fee is Php 1,000.00 only/person. For reservation, please call or text: Fred Castro (0917) 8007089, Loida Bautista (0917) 8174887, Sarah (0917) 8997023, Linda ((0917) 8665768.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to advise that **Scarlet N. Cabungcal**, a resident of Phase 1, Block 1, Lot 17, Tierra Grande, Camella Homes, Lawa-an, Talisay, Cebu has been convicted for the crime of ESTAFA by the Regional Trial Court of Cebu 7th Judicial Region, Branch 20, Cebu City in its decision dated May 21,2007.

Any information leading to the whereabouts of this individual should be reported to Primer Group of Companies, Suite 902 State Center Bldg., 333 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila. Tel # 247-1881.

(PDI–Nov. 11, 2007)

TEOFILO MACATANGAY CARANDANG

of San Luis, Batangas and Pennsylvania, USA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 3, 2007 at the age of 86.

His children **Oscar**, **Norma** & **Roberto Panis**, and **Naomi**; grandchildren **Michelle Miyori** and **Kenneth Robert**; brothers and sisters **Apolonio**, **Aurea**, **Francisco** & **Aurora**, **Norma** & **Bienvenido Figueroa**, and **Celso** & **Amor**; nephews and nieces, together with his relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will lie in state at the Mortuary of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, No. 3 Timog Ave. corner Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City from 8:00 a.m. of November 15, 2007 and will be transferred to the family residence at Tunggal, San Luis, Batangas after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Interment will be on November 18, 2007 at Christian Memorial Park, Lemery, Batangas after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at San Isidro Labrador Parish, San Luis, Batangas.

FR. JUAN Ma. H. LEDESMA, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Friday, 09 November 2007

Wake : Oratory of St. Ignatius at Loyola House of Studies
Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C.
Daily Mass at 8:00 P.M.

Funeral Mass : at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, 13 November
in the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies.

Interment : Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C.
immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed.

For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
2/F Building 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, 1003 Manila
Trunk Line 743-83-01 local 1625; 1626 Telefax 741-97-75
URL: http://www.doh.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines

PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS LABORATORY EQUIPMENT FOR BFAD SATELLITE LABORATORY – DAVAO AND CEBU
IAEB No. 2007-12-6 (32) & 2007-12-7 (34)

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the General Appropriations Act of CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of Twenty Million Seventy Three Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Four & 96/100 Philippine Peso (PhP20,073,234 96) for Satellite Laboratory Davao and Ten Million Two Hundred Thirty One Thousand Nine Hundred Seven Philippine Pesos (PhP 10,231,907 00) for Satellite Laboratory Cebu being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the aforesaid Goods. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The DOH now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for procurement of above-mentioned packages. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding.
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the COBAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8.00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Philippine Pesos (PhP7,500 00) for the Satellite Laboratory Davao and Three Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP3,000 00) for the Satellite Laboratory Cebu. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
7. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the following dates and time at the address given below:

Particular	Date	Time
Procurement of Various Laboratory Equipment for BFAD Satellite Laboratory Davao	November 23, 2007	10:00 a.m.
Procurement of Various Laboratory Equipment for BFAD Satellite Laboratory Cebu	November 23, 2007	1:30 p.m.

8. The Submission and Opening of Bids shall be on the following dates and time at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend Bids and eligibility requirements.

Particular	Date	Time
Procurement of Various Laboratory Equipment for BFAD Satellite Laboratory Davao	December 6, 2007	10:00 a.m.
Procurement of Various Laboratory Equipment for BFAD Satellite Laboratory Davao	December 7, 2007	10.00 a.m.

9. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount in Pesos. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % Approved Budget for the Contract for the item/s for which Bid is Submitted
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)

10. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Building 6
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz,
Manila

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health and
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI – Nov. 10 & 11, 2007)

INQUIRER BRe JOB Market

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program

Funded by the Government of Japan

Qualified citizens of developing member countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), who intend to pursue postgraduate studies in economics, management, science and technology, and other development-related fields are invited to apply for scholarships under the Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program. Upon successful completion of the graduate program, the scholars are expected to return to their countries and contribute to its socioeconomic development. Scholarships are awarded for graduate studies at designated institutions in courses of study approved by ADB. The Program especially welcomes qualified women applicants who have limited financial means to obtain university education.

The Scholarships

Level of Education: postgraduate (diploma, masters, and doctorate degrees)
Duration: from 1 to 2 years
Coverage: tuition fees, books, subsistence and housing allowance, insurance, economy airfare, and research subsidy

Academic Institutions

- **Australia**—National Centre for Development Studies/Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of Sydney
- **China, People's Republic of**—University of Hong Kong
- **India**—Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
- **Japan**—International University of Japan, Nagoya University (Graduate School of International Development), Keio University (International Graduate Programs on Advanced Science and Technology), National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Ritsumeikan University (Master in Economics), Saitama University (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering), University of Tokyo (Department of Civil Engineering, School of International Health, Institute of Environmental Studies, and Department of Urban Engineering)
- **New Zealand**—University of Auckland
- **Pakistan**—Lahore University of Management Sciences
- **Philippines**—Asian Institute of Management, International Rice Research Institute/University of the Philippines in Los Baños
- **Singapore**—National University of Singapore
- **Thailand**—Asian Institute of Technology, Thammasat University
- **USA**—East-West Center

Eligibility Requirements

Prospective applicants must:

- be a citizen of an ADB developing member country
- have at least 2 years work experience
- have gained admission to an approved course in a designated institution
- be proficient in oral and written English communication skills to be able to pursue studies
- be in good health
- not more than 35 years old at the time of application.
  (Staff of ADB and the designated institutions and their close relatives are not eligible to apply.)

Application Requirements

Applicants should obtain application forms from the designated institutions of their choice and submit the completed form and required documentation to the Institution. Applicants should indicate on the application form that they wish to be considered for an Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship. (ADB will select the scholars from among those admitted by the institutions. A separate application to ADB is not necessary.) For further information, visit the ADB-JSP website.

www.adb.org/jsp

JSP ADB

HSW reforms draw positive response in Saudi Arabia

THE PHILIPPINE REforms on the deployment of Filipino household service workers (HSWs) that was strongly opposed for raising the HSWs' minimum monthly wage from US$200 to US$400 generated positive changes that removed the slave-like classification of domestic work in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) said.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said the reform package raised not only the deployment wage of Filipino HSWs but also the job category of domestic helpers in the Kingdom from a lowly *qadama* or slave to HSW, which has been recognized as a position requiring set of skills, training, and at least a high school education.

Brion, citing a report from Riyadh-based Labor Attache Rustico dela Fuente, said the new policy also elicited a higher level of respect for Filipino HSWs from Saudi employers.

He said the new policy on Filipino domestic workers and the change in position title to HSWs resulted in the recognition and greater respect for Filipino HSWs as skilled workers who should not be abused but rather cared for and provided with better employment terms and conditions. Otherwise, employers may lose the vital services of Filipino HSWs.

The new thinking, Brion said, is being manifested by employers and their representatives who come to the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (Polo) in Riyadh almost everyday indicating their support and compliance with the policy.

In Dec. 2006, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) issued a package of welfare and protection reforms for HSWs raising the minimum salary of overseas Filipino HSWs from $200 monthly to $400 monthly. It removed from the HSWs the payment of placement fee. The HSWs, nonetheless, are required to undergo assessment. Those who fail the assessment three times will have to undergo skills training.

The new POEA rules for HSWs were strongly opposed due to fears that they may push employers overseas to hire HSWs from other countries who are willing to receive lower wages, thereby, easing out HSWs from the Philippines.

Contrary to such fears, Dela Fuente in his report said that 12 Saudi manpower agencies filed their application with Polo-Riyadh between May and August 2007 alone for pre-qualification to participate in the HSW new deployment scheme.

The labor attaché noted that Saudi recruiters initially expressed dismay on the implementation of the new policy for Filipino HSWs. The Saudis, however, began to give in as shown by daily appearances of employers or their representatives at the Polo to comply with the new HSW policy.

Kambayoka Ensemble outreach tour

AS PART OF THE 2007 Lakbay Sining Outreach Program of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), the Sining Kambayoka Ensemble, the official theater company of the Mindanao State University in Marawi City goes on road tour in various communities in Luzon from Nov. 7-19.

Broken Dreams is the production that will be performed by the Sining Kambayoka during the tour. It is an original dance-drama that portrays the story of two young Mindanaoans caught in the midst of conflict and whose dreams were shattered as an after effect of war and greed. It presents the unique culture of the indigenous communities in Mindanao as well as the difficulties they encounter as they are forcibly evicted from their home land. The play poses a challenge and encourages everyone to take positive actions to help resolve the problems.

The outreach tour commenced in Bacolod, Silay and Sigma, Capiz last Sept. 23 to Oct. 3, with performances, forums and workshops well attended by local students, teachers, artists and the general public.

Founded in 1974 the Sining Kambayoka is a recipient of various awards such as the 1977-78 Aliw Awards for most promising and best theater group in the Philippines and the 1997 Gawad CCP para sa Sining Pantanghalan for their outstanding contribution in theater development in the country. It has also represented the Philippines in various international theater festivals in South Korea, United States of America and the United Kingdom.

Supported by various schools, universities and local government units, the outreach performances will be held at the Colegio de San Agustin (Nov. 7), Miriam College (Nov. 8), Malolos-Bulacan (Nov. 10), Arellano University (Nov. 13), San Fernando-La Union (Nov. 15), Mankiling (Nov. 16) and Gasan, Marinduque (Nov. 18). For more info, contact the CCP Outreach and Exchange Division at tel. no. 832-1125 locals 1708 to 1710.

LIFESTYLE
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Music and Much More, Shopwise has All You Want for Christmas

It's going to be a fun festive and musical holiday at Shopwise Hypermarket get into the rhythm of the season with a symphony of feasts, gift giving celebrations and traditions all in tune with the world's best loved yuletide carols. From decked-out interiors an extensive range of high quality merchandise and budget-friendly gift ideas to a rhapsody of events and promotions, Shopwise has everything you want and need making the approaching holidays merrier than ever. Now that's music to the ear.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR EATING!

More than any other holiday, Christmas is the time when families gather over bountiful feasts to celebrate. Shopwise Hypermarket provides not only the customary Noche Buena fare but also delicious gourmet alternatives.

Trio of Hamon and Queso As a starter for any of the three main courses below, serve a trio of ham and cheese using these yummy selections from Shopwise.

On a serving plate, alternately place slices of three kinds of ham and three kinds of cheese like this: first slice-Shopwise Pepper Ham, second slice-Frico Edam Mild, third slice-Shopwise Paprika Ham, fourth slice-Frico Matured Edam, fifth slice-Shopwise Burgundy Ham, sixth slice-Frico Herbey Dutch. Continue alternating slices of ham and cheese until the plate is full.

*Shopwise Pepper Ham 200g
*Shopwise Paprika Ham 200g
*Shopwise Burgundy Ham 200g
Frico Herbey Dutch P130.75
Frico Matured Edam P130.75
Frico Edam Mild P115.75

Three Options for a Festive and Delicious Entrée:

Cornish Game Hen, served with Thai jasmine rice and steamed cauliflower, broccoli and asparagus. Before roasting the hens, season with soy sauce then rub with rock salt, black pepper and five-spice powder. Place in a shallow roasting pan with crushed pineapple, sweetened pineapple juice, finely diced onion and ginger. Roast and baste hens with pineapple mixture until golden brown.

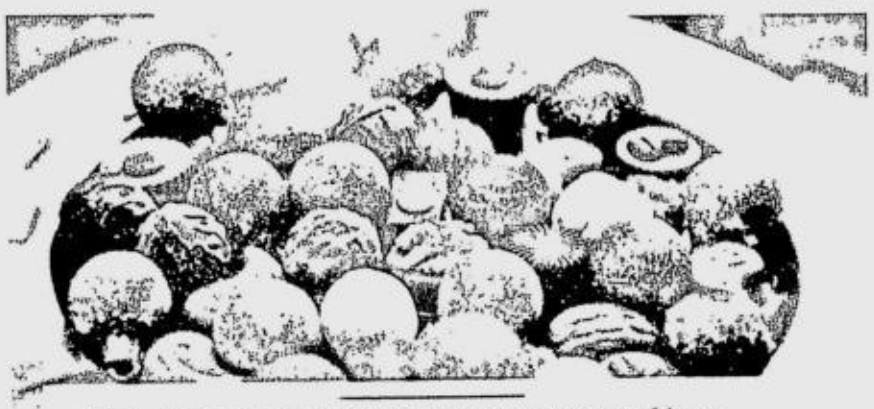
Patti Jean Cornish Game Hen 375/kilo

Australian Rack of Lamb, served with baked potatoes topped with sour cream and chives. Before roasting the lamb, rub and season all sides with one of these choices:

- Salt and Herbs: Mix some garlic salt, onion powder, thyme, basil and black pepper
- Salt with dill, rosemary & pepper: Mix salt, dillweed, rosemary leaves, black pepper and white pepper
- Salt with curry and onion: Mix garlic salt, garlic powder, cumin powder, onion powder and black pepper

If you prefer marinade over the seasonings above, you can marinate the lamb in lemon juice, grated lemon peel, olive oil, thyme, garlic, salt and pepper before roasting.

Australian Rack of Lamb P661.75/kilo



For affordable, quick, and no-fuss dessert options, serve one of these:

- **Swiss Delice Selection Prestige du Chocolatier**, 8.8 oz (250g), P479.95

A box of heavenly chocolates that will melt in your mouth. Remove each chocolate from box, arrange on a dessert plate and serve!

- **Swiss Delice Petits Chocolats**, 100 g, P79.50

Easy on the pocket and incredibly delicious, these assorted minis are the perfect end to a perfect feast. Just place on a serving dish and you're all set.

Butterball Turkey, served with roasted garlic mashed potatoes. Before roasting turkey, season with garlic salt and black pepper. Twenty minutes before roast is done, remove from oven and pour with glaze (made by heating 1 7-oz. can jellied cranberry sauce, ¼ cup corn syrup, 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel and 1 teaspoon lemon juice). Continue to roast turkey uncovered, while basting with glaze until done. Spice up ordinary mashed potatoes by stirring in some roasted garlic before serving.

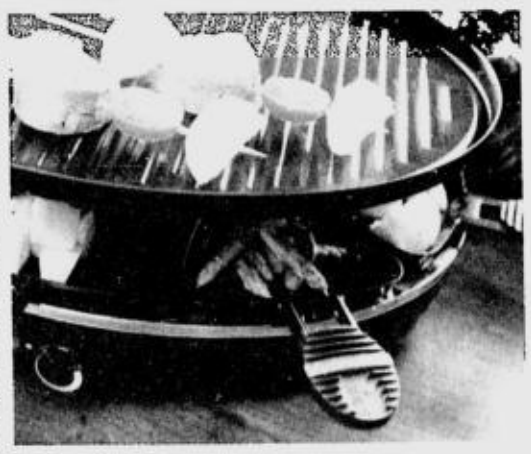
Butterball Turkey Premium Young Turkey P225.25/kilo

'TIS THE TIME TO GIVE!

Playing Santa is going to be a breeze with Shopwise's extensive selection of gift baskets and packages fit for all budgets. The retail outlet's diverse sections carry a broad line of items fit for anyone on your Christmas list.

Gifts for him

Not quite sure what to get him for Christmas? Whether you're gift hunting for your friend, brother, boyfriend, brother, boss at Shopwise, you will surely find something that won't break your budget. Take your pick from these fabulous finds.



AFFORDABLE PLEASURES

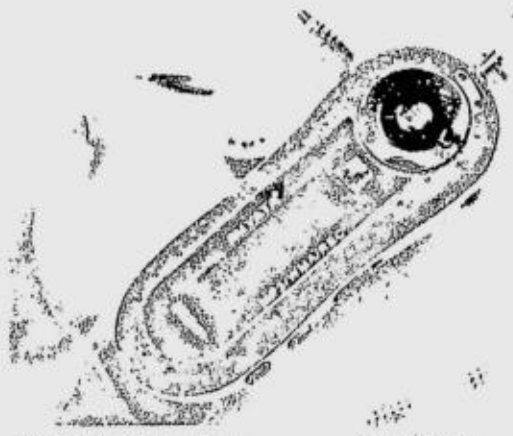
American Home Teppan Barbeque Grill P1,199

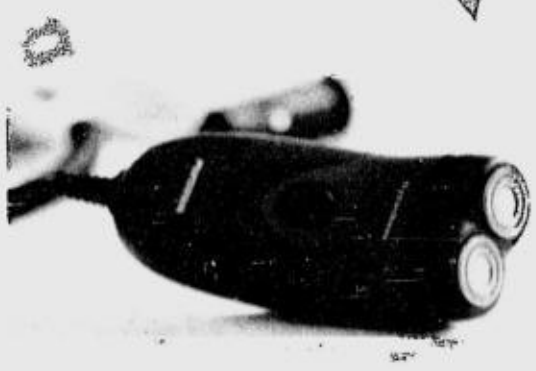
If your man is a whiz in the kitchen, he will absolutely love this grill. It even comes with convenient individual mini compartments for easy grilling of condiments and smaller sized, diced food!

MONEY SAVING MARVELS

Miyata MP3 Player P895

This is the MP3 Player for the not-so-committed. At only P895, and with a 128MB memory, it can carry up to 70 songs (when files are compressed)-more than enough to get through a few hours at the gym or jogging around the village.





INEXPENSIVE INDULGENCE

Flyco FS101 Shaver P650

This shaver isn't only compact, he can use it in his car too! Definitely for that guy who is always on the go.

FAB FINDS

Organic Hyssop Brown Rice Body Care System P699

This body care system is perfect for that guy who looks for a little pampering every now and then. The kit comes complete with moisture shampoo and conditioner, moisture body cleanser and moisture body lotion.

Infiniti Speakers P449.75

If your man loves his music, he will love listening to his MP3 collection anytime; anywhere with these cool white Infiniti Speakers.

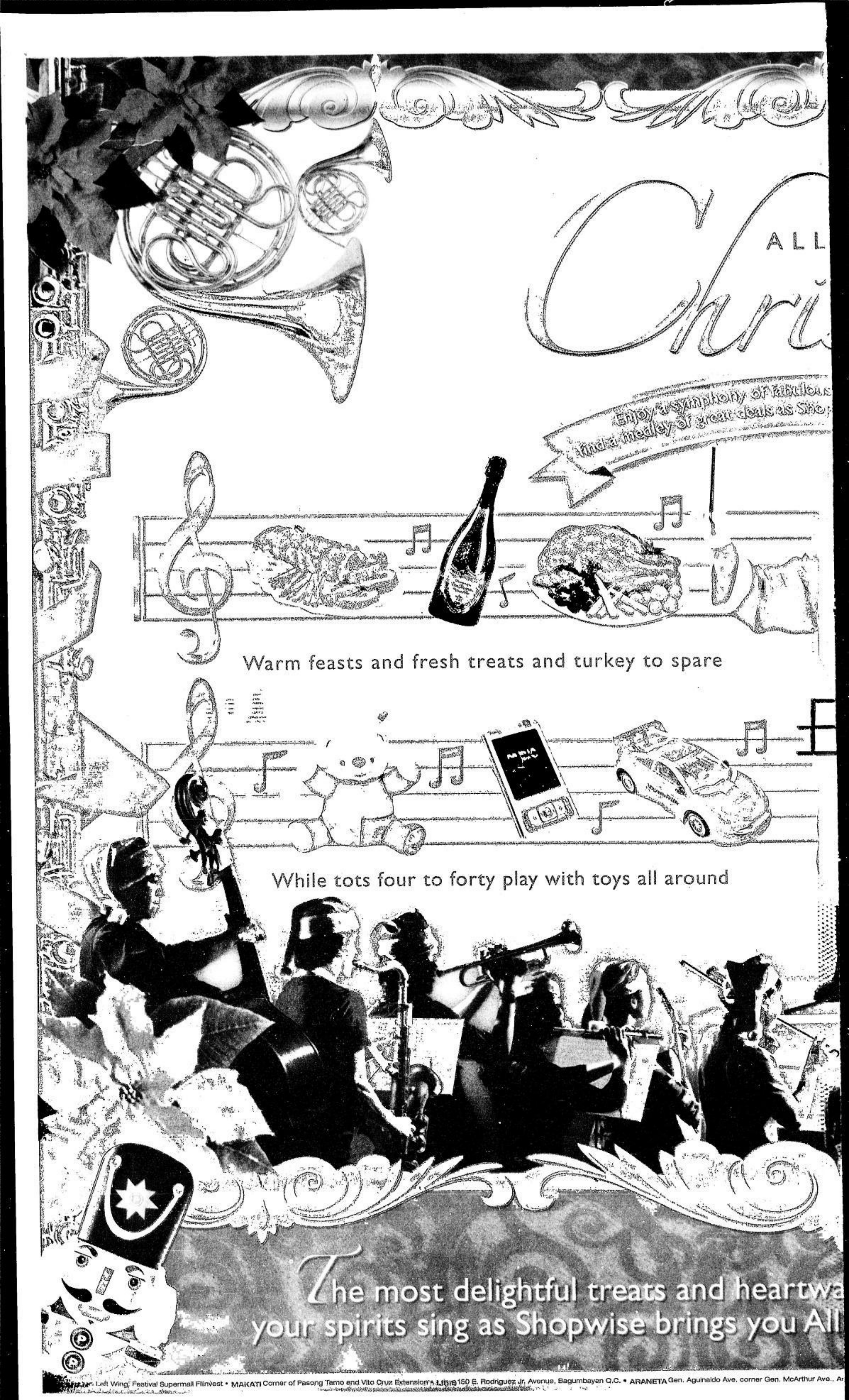
BARGAIN BUYS

Flask With Mug Cups P195

This handy three-piece stainless steel set comes with a flask and strap plus two mug cups he can bring along at work or at play.

SPLURGE ON HIM!

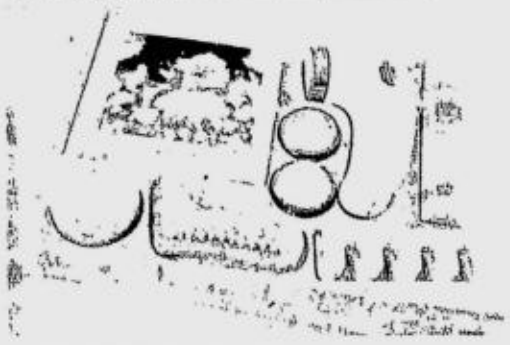
Don't mind spending a little more for him? Give the gift of sweet dreams with this Tempur Pressure Relieving Pillow. The pillow Brad Pitt swears by and Paris Hilton refuses to fly without! Choose from three sizes: Small size (54X32X9,5/5cm, P5,570), Medium size 61x31x10/7cm at P6,500, and Queen size 70x40x10.5cm at P7,150. These items are available at Shopwise Libis only.


ALL
Enjoy a symphony of fabulous
find a medley of great deals as Shop
Warm feasts and fresh treats and turkey to spare
While tots four to forty play with toys all around
The most delightful treats and heartwa
your spirits sing as Shopwise brings you All
Left Wing, Festival Supermall Filinvest • MAKATI Corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Extension • 150 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Bagumbayan Q.C. • ARANETA Gen. Aguinaldo Ave. corner Gen. McArthur Ave., Ar

SHOPWISE
i WANT FOR
stmas
gift ideas for Christmas and
wise ushers in the holiday rhythm
And presents to open and new stuff to wear
And sweet thoughts and sweet dreams and sweet treats abound
rming feasts will make
You Want for Christmas!
SHOPWISE
The good life you can afford.
neta Center • ANTIPOLO M.L. Quezon corner Circumferential Road, Brgy., San Roque • MANILA Harrison Plaza Mall, A. Malvini and M. Adriatico Sts., Malate, Manila • SUCAT Sucat Road corner Soreena Avenue, Parañaque City

Gifts for her

Can't think of anything to give the women in your life? Relax and take a look at these great buys from Shopwise. You're sure to find that perfect something for your mom, sister, aunt, friend, officemates, boss and staff-and all within your budget!



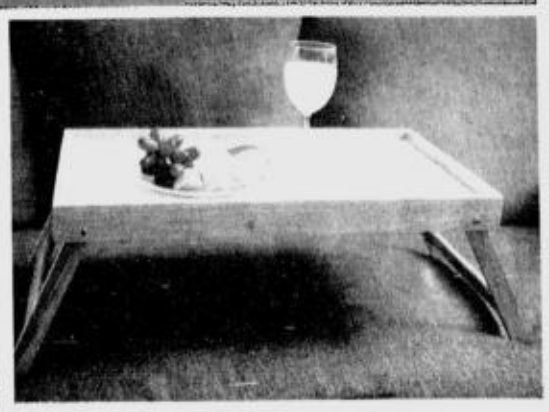
INEXPENSIVE INDULGENCE

Homedics Body Basic P1, 295

No woman can resist a spa treatment! This kit includes a Pedicure Unit with three attachments and storage bag, vanilla scented aromatherapy candle, two toe separators, foot brush and peppermint foot lotion. It even comes with music-a relaxation CD to give her the complete and ultimate spa experience right in the comfort of her home.

Caribbean Breakfast Maker P1, 095

This is a coffee maker and toaster oven in one-a space saver and time saver too. How cool is that?



AFFORDABLE PLEASURES

Essential Home Bed Tray P725

Why not surprise her with a Christmas Eve breakfast-in-bed treat? She will love digging into that freshly made French toast and sipping her coffee while never leaving her bed!

MONEY-SAVING MARVELS

2-Piece Collander Set (Black) P675

This colander set will add instant fun to any kitchen. Instead of ordinary round holes, the holes are shaped into letters spelling out food items that can be washed in the colander like "berries," "spaghetti,", "salads," and "pasta."

FAB FINDS

Essential Home Mug Tree P325

Most women are on a never-ending quest to get rid of clutter. Help her do just that with this mug tree that can hold and organize up to six mugs. It can easily blend into most kitchen motifs with its natural pine wood finish.

BARGAIN BUYS

Vintage Picture Frames P195

She can never have too many photographs to frame. Choose any of these that come in a pretty antique finish. With its vintage look, it will certainly add charm to any shelf or desk.

SPLURGE ON HER!

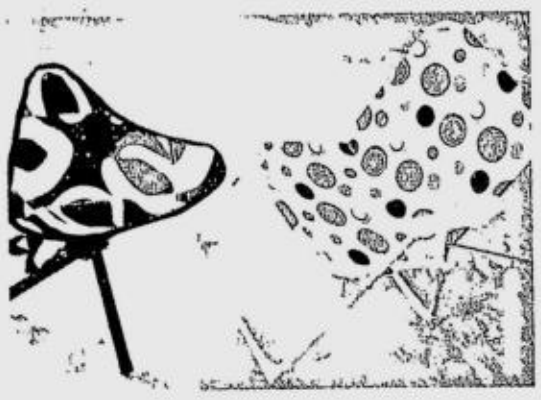
She will just love having her own chocolate fountain! This Chocolate Fountain by Chocolate Line (P4,399.75) is guaranteed to liven up any dinner. Guests will surely head for dessert first!

Gifts for kids

Check out these gifts both boys and girls will thank you for! The best part is, all items are affordable!

Ice Cream Set (P475)

ALL kids LOVE ice cream! Throw the ultimate ice cream party with this 21-piece set including 2 kinds of bowls (3 pieces each) with spoons, 2 kinds of parfait glasses (3 pieces each) with spoons and 3 shake glasses too!



Kiddie Folding Chair and Stool for as low as P87.50

Children love having a space to call their own. These kiddie folding chairs with foot stool will definitely give them that much needed space. Chairs and stools come in fun prints that kids will really love!

DVD COLLECTION for as low as P100

Kids can't get enough of their favorite movie or television show. Give them a collection of their favorites from Shopwise's selection of original DVD's.

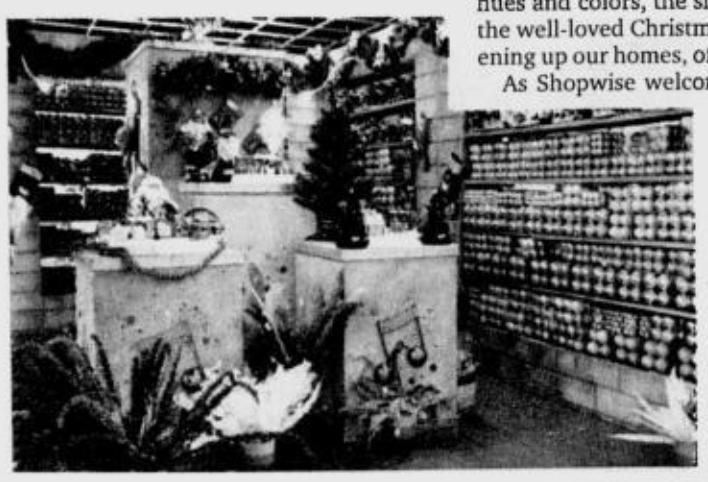
'Tis the season to rejoice and remember!

What's Christmas without celebrations and traditions? Shopwise puts a musical spin on well-loved customs while orchestrating an exciting line-up of activities that capture the melodic, lively and uplifting spirit of the season.

Deck the Halls

The sounds and sights cannot be ignored. It's hard not to get caught up with the Christmas spirit, when everywhere you look, there are the ubiquitous signs-the holiday ornaments brimming with palettes of hues and colors, the shiny decorations and the well-loved Christmas characters brightening up our homes, offices and shops.

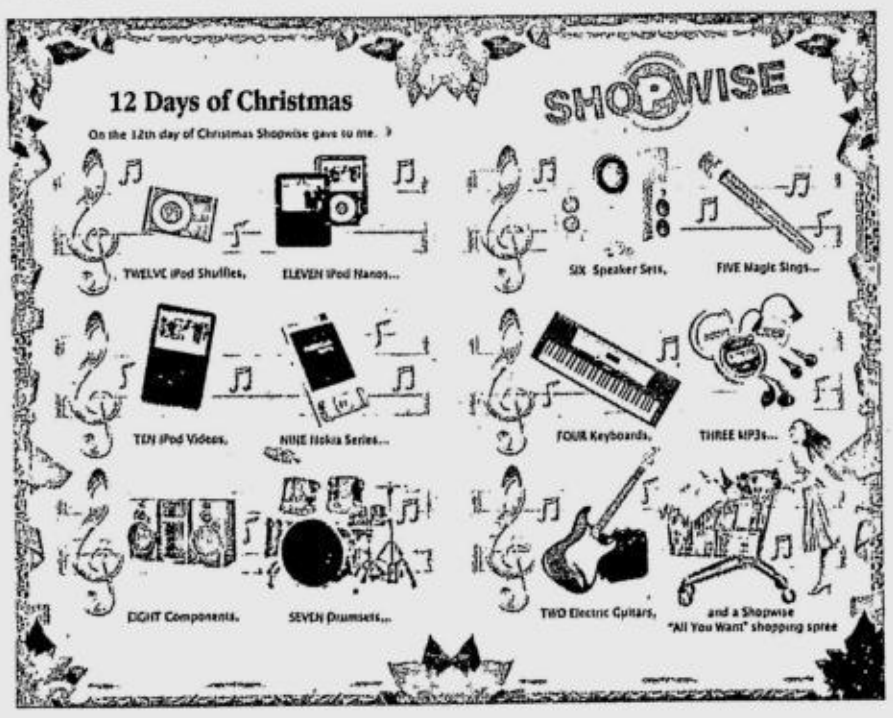
As Shopwise welcomes the holiday season, hordes of shoppers will be greeted with festive decors and colorful sights alongside the musical scores, notes and clefs that define the hypermarket chain's theme, a musical Christmas experience. Better get your Christmas stockings ready for a bounty of gifts and surprises and bring mistletoe for good luck because Shopwise will have everyone singing joyously all the way.



The Sounds of the Season

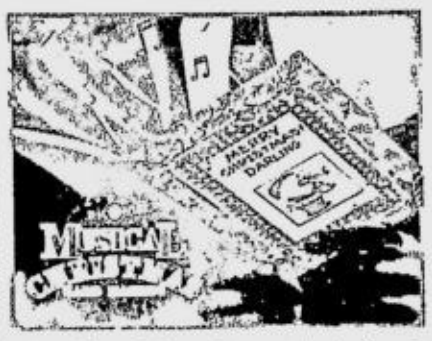
Scores of years after since the melodious voices of angels had announced the birth of the Christ Child, carols have become instrumental to adding color and cheer to Christmas. From the solemn hymns at the time of St. Francis of Assisi, named the "Father of Caroling" for introducing these tunes outside the clergy, to the joyful and merry themes that became popular in the Victorian era, Christmas carols serve a faithful reminder of how meaningful this time of the year is. Shopwise will have customers crooning to its own version of the 12 Days of Christmas with over a million's worth of the latest musical gadgets and an awesome grand prize at stake in the raffle promo from November 3 to December 15, 2007. Twelve (12) Apple IPOD Shuffles (1GB), Eleven (11) Apple IPOD Nanos (4 GB), Ten (10) Apple IPOD Videos (80 GB), Nine (9) Nokia N95 Series, Eight (8) JVC DXJ10 Components, Seven (7) Fernando Drum Sets, Six (6) Altec Lansing MX5021 MHT 2.1 Speakers, Five (5) Extreme Magic Sing (Version 8.0), Four (4) Yamaha E203 Keyboards, Three (3) Sony MP3s (512 MB), Two (2) Fender Squeir Electric Guitars and an **ALL YOU WANT SHOPPING SPREE FROM SHOPWISE.**

The tradition also comes alive at Shopwise as patrons will be serenaded to their favorite yuletide songs by the talented minstrels of Wyeth Pro-Gifted Kids. Music is all over Shopwise so better catch the mini concerts to be staged in Sucat (December 1), Alabang (December 2), Araneta Center (December 8), and Libis (December 9).



Holiday Greetings

Sir Henry Cole. His name might not first ring a bell, but credit goes to this man who created the first Christmas card. Busy to write letters, he commissioned an artist-friend to design a card for him with a printed message which he could just sign, and which introduced a centuries-old tradition of remembering loved ones on Christmas.



Never running out of creative ideas in preserving customs such as this, Shopwise engages kids to the wonders of making Christmas greeting cards with exciting workshops that can also win them cash prizes. For added enjoyment, kids would be making musical greeting cards. Expect a truly musical Christmas when these workshops are held at Shopwise Araneta (December 1), Libis (December 2), Sucat (December 8) and Alabang (December 9) from 4PM to 5PM.

Editorial Director Cheche V. Moral

Sunday LIFESTYLE Exclusives

Guest Editor Dr. Honey A. Carandang

What is happening TO THE Filipino family

PHOTO: ROGER MARGALLO

is a clinical psychologist who pioneered in Play Therapy and Family Therapy in the Philippines. She is a retired professor who mentored clinical psychology students for three decades. She has been working with children in different circumstances and their families for many years now.

Dr. Carandang is the author of best-selling books in psychology such as "Filipino Children Under Stress: Family Dynamics and Therapy," "Self-Worth and the Filipino Child," "The Path to Healing," "Accompanying Survivors of Disaster." She is happily married to noted neurologist Brigs L. Carandang, and is the proud mother of Ricky, Rafa and Chris.

It is trying to cope with economic, political and social stresses

By Honey A. Carandang, PhD

ANY SIGNIFICANT event that happens in society has an impact on the family. The family is known as the "burden carrier of the social order." It is the backbone of the nation. How children absorb and experience these societal or "extra-familial" stresses that impact on the family depends on how the parents and other older members deal with them. The children almost always take the cue from the adults, especially the parents.

In the recent months and last few years, many significant changes have happened in our country and in the world. These changes have put our families at risk. How is the Filipino family handling these changes?

Changing role of women

Let us take a look at them now:

First is the changing role of women both at home and in the workplace. Most women now hold jobs outside the home either to supplement the husbands' earnings or to be the main and, sometimes, the only breadwinner in the family. This has led to the phenomenon of "househusbands." How are the men taking on this role, which challenges their male identity and triggers issues of self-esteem and power? A lot of adjustment needs to be done, not just in the roles they both play, the task and functions within these roles, but also in their feelings and sense of self.

When the adjustment does not go well, women become overloaded and fatigued in trying to fulfill their duties as breadwinners working outside the homes and as housewives still taking care of the household.

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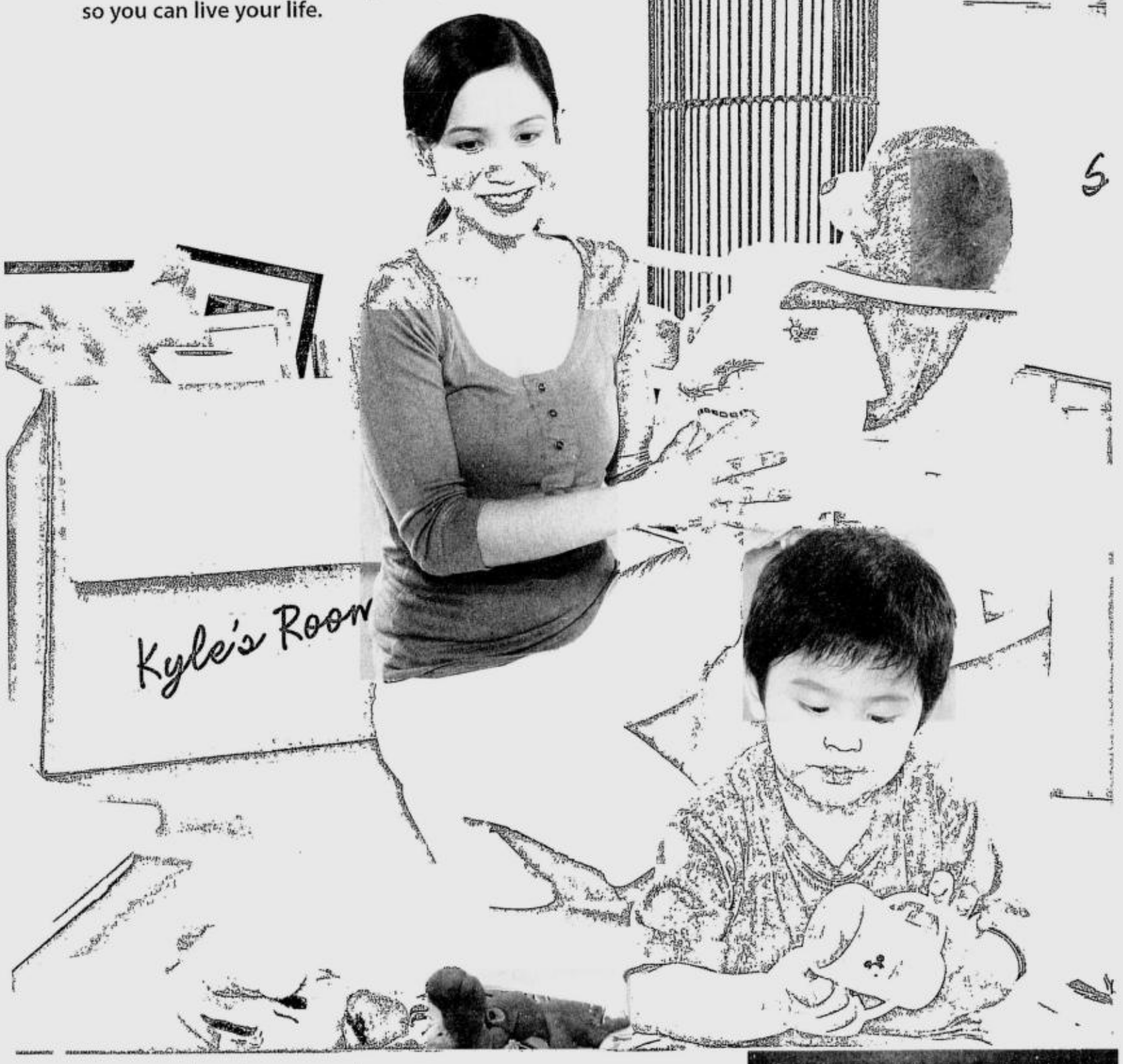

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Exclu

What is happening to the Filipino family

From page 1

How can adjustment in the parental roles be done so that women do not become overburdened and burnt out? What social systems can be of help?

Political instability

Then, there's the political crises. The instability in the government that has led to insecurity. This uncertainty and unpredictability has led to anxiety and a feeling of being unsafe. People don't know what's going to happen next. We can no longer trust the government institutions. And in a country where systems do not work and people cannot rely in the institutions for support, they turn to their families. Studies show that in the Philippines, people feel that they can only depend on "God, my family, and myself."

Another important factor that is related to this political crisis is the moral degradation resulting from pervasive corruption at all levels of government.

Children see that the adults in high positions, whom they are supposed to respect and look up to as role models, do wrong but are not punished. In fact, they don't even admit that they are wrong. They show no remorse and they deny their wrongdoing. Wrongdoers are not punished but are even rewarded at times! This has made young people become disillusioned and cynical when what they need are good role models to emulate. How can children learn right from wrong?

Children witness adults lying

Children witness adults lying blatantly on TV every day. It is such a common occurrence that they are getting the message that lying is normal. It is a way of life.

Children are natural truth-tellers until we teach them to lie or they learn to lie because everybody is doing it. How can we preserve their innate truth-telling in a society where lying is a way of life? Again, it is the family that we can count on to preserve children's truth-telling.

We will look at the resilience in creative coping of our children later on in the segment, and maybe learn from them!

Violence

Another major factor is the increasing violence in the streets and in the home. Family violence or domestic violence cases have been brought to our attention by the media and this has led to the greater awareness of abuse. It is a good thing that abuse against children and women is now being discussed and ways of preventing and stopping these are being done by many NGOs and the DSWD.

In the streets, "road rage" where people are shot in traffic altercations have recently caught our attention. Too much stress due to traffic; pollution, over-crowdedness in the big cities and other stresses have upped the stress level such that suppressed anger can be triggered by simple road altercations that lead to senseless loss of lives.

Power of media

Then there is the tremendous power of media. Many children are traumatized just by watching TV. How can media be regulated? Or better still, how can one make positive use of media in educating children and society and instilling core values of truth-telling and integrity? Here again, we need to help our families on how to make use of media and to instill values in our children.

A very strong factor that has had tremendous impact and has changed our lives is the advances in technology.

Advances in technology

Cell phone and computers have resulted in easier and faster communication, especially texting. While they have given us a lot of benefits, popular computer games and the use of Internet have had some detrimental effects on the lifestyle of our young people. Very obvious is the lack of physical exercise, exposure to aggression and violence and information overload. Addiction to computer games, which are mostly violent, is now common among adolescents.

These are some of the changes that have had impact on our families today which make us realize how we need to harness outside resources and help families cope with these changes before they truly break down.

OFW families

Having put the Filipino family in the context of the larger society, let us now focus on a most major change that has become an urgent concern and that has directly changed the family's structure and identity—the OFW phenomenon.

Perhaps the most major change that has the most direct impact on the family is the global migration—the significant increase in the number of OFWs or overseas Filipino workers. This has resulted in the change in the structure and composition of our families. There are now more single-parent families, mother-headed, father-headed and child-headed, blended families and many others. The definition of family is changing. For both parents working abroad, the children have become "seasonal orphans." This phenomenon has a clear and direct impact on child-rearing practices and on how our children are growing up. What do families do to cope with this?

Labor migration is not a new phenomenon in the Philippines. We had hundreds of men leaving for work in the pineapple fields of Hawaii a hundred years ago.

The number dramatically increased in the 1970s with the petroleum boom, when the Middle East became a major destination for Philippine migrant workers.

These OFWs, mostly males, went into heavy production and construction work. Since the 1980s, however, female OFWs have joined the exodus in big numbers, migrating to other destinations like Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Italy, which have a great demand for work.

At present 7 out of 10 migrant workers are women. With such a big number, it's estimated that about 10 million children (more than 10 percent of the total population) are growing up without a mother.

For Dr. Liane Alampay, a developmental psychologist, "In the Filipino context, when you take the mother away from the family, it is BIZARRE."

In our forthcoming book on OFW families titled "Nawala ang Ilaw ng Tahanan: Case Studies of OFW Families Left Behind by the Migrant Mother" (written by M.L.A. Carandang, Aileen Sison and C.F.A. Carandang and to be published by Anvil Publishing), we write about an in-depth study where we explored the innermost feelings and thoughts of family members left behind by the mother.

Questions, findings

We start with the questions: What goes on inside the family when the mother leaves for a long period of time? How does the family seek a new balance or equilibrium? What do the children think and feel about their family situation? What happens to their worldview and their values? How about the father? How does he cope?

From their own responses, we cull insights and support programs and activities in the home and school community that can answer their expressed needs and enable them to lead happier lives.

Here are some excerpts from the forthcoming book:

- "OFWs send $14 billion to the country. They are a major force in our economy."
- "They have kept us afloat over the last few years and are thus a central leg of our economy."
- "They are modern heroes; let us honor them."
- Don't romanticize OFWs to minimize social cost.
- Many Filipinos are faced with a cruel choice: Raise your kids in grinding poverty or offer them a bright future by leaving them for a job abroad.
- "RP maids leave broken-hearted children."

The above statements taken from the media give a glimpse of the phenomenon of global migration and its impact on our country and our families.

But they do not tell us what is really happening with families left behind—how they live, how they cope with family separation, what their needs and frustrations are, how they make sense of their situation, their vulnerabilities and their resilience and strength. They hold up the economy and keep it from collapsing, but what kind of assistance do they get in return?

Let us look at the inner lives of three families. *(See sidebar.)*

A tale of three families

By Christopher Franz A. Carandang
Contributor
and Cathy S. Babao-Guballa

BELOW ARE STORIES OF FAMILIES currently experiencing the ups and downs of the OFW experience. Their names have been changed to protect their privacy.

Mirasol family

Romy Sr., 55, and Aurora, 41, have five children. The two eldest children are married while the three younger ones, all adolescents, live with them. Romy also has a two-month-old daughter from an extra-marital affair.

A year ago, Aurora left to work in Qatar as a reflexologist but ended up as an "all-around." She left so that the children could go to school. But her departure saddled them with a huge debt, resulting in their having to mortgage the family home.

Romy has had to learn how to budget their expenses and to take care of the children's school needs. He works as a tricycle driver until the wee hours of the morning. He says that the work helps him cope with loneliness. He also says that he used to drink but his children didn't approve of it, so he stopped.

The youngest in the family, Romy Jr., 15, echoes the overwhelming sadness felt by the whole family: "*Nawala ang ilaw ng tahanan, nawala 'yung laging nasa bahay, nawala 'yung nagaalaga ng bahay at 'yung nagaalaga din sa amin.*"

Romy Jr. says talking to his mother on the cell phone twice a month is what helps alleviate the sadness. Household activities such as fixing the house and doing the laundry with his siblings, as well as studying, have also helped him cope with his mother's absence.

His passion for singing and solving logic puzzles and his aspirations to finish school and pass auditions for a national singing competition on TV have helped him rise above feelings of burden and sadness.

The Mirasols hope that Aurora will return home for good. Romy Sr. says nothing good has come out of her leaving. "*Parang wala namang magandang nangyayari. Lahat kami nangungulila. Wala akong nakitang* improvement *sa buhay namin.*"

Fernandez family

Six years ago, Arcadio and Aloha lost their jobs when the restaurant they worked for burned down. Soon after Aloha left for Singapore to work as a caregiver. Arcadio was reluctant to let his wife leave, but both of them decided that the sacrifice would ensure their children's future.

Arcadio says it took him about two months to adjust to the changes that were required of his wife's departure. He stayed home, did domestic chores such as laundry and cooking, cleaning the house and even bathing son Jolo, 10. He says he had difficulty with Jeralyn, who is an adolescent and has many issues regarding body changes and low grades in school.

It is a plus that the Fernandez couple have a good relationship. Arcadio writes to Aloha every day and she, for her part, calls him daily. They pledge their faithfulness to each other, and respect each other deeply. He is also thankful that his wife has a good employer.

Arcadio is now able to buy most of the children's needs and has adjusted to the role of mothering his kids. He is fully attuned to and sensitive to their physical and emotional needs. His children are a source of comfort, and he copes by spending a lot of time bonding with them and observing simple family traditions. His wish and goal is clear: that their children finish schooling and his wife does not get sick. This gives him hope and energy to go on in spite of his wife's absence.

Lirio family

Joko, 55, was only able to finish second year in college. He used to work at Meralco as part of the maintenenance staff but is now unemployed.

His wife Julie, 32, a high-school graduate, was able to study reflexology under a program sponsored by a religious group. She has been working in the Middle East for two years and two months. She works as a "therapist-reflexologist" and domestic helper.

Joko and Julie have five children. The oldest is Gio, 15; followed by two girls, Bella, 14 and Maya, 13; and two boys, Jay, 8 and Ernie, 6. All three boys live with Joko, while the two girls live with their maternal grandparents in Pangasinan. When Julie left for Kuwait in 2004, she asked Joko to quit his job to take care of the boys.

Joko says Julie failed to send them money for almost eight months during the past year. He says she became steeped in debt. He also talks about his frustration and feelings of being trapped because his wife threatened not to send him money if he decided to get a job, yet in the end she would fail to send them money anyway.

During those times he would drink to numb the pain. However, he had to quit the habit because he could no longer afford it.

Communication between husband and wife is not regular. Joko often gets upset to find that Julie calls his neighbor instead of him to check up on the children. He has also tried writing to his wife but she doesn't respond to his letters.

Jay, 8, likes to draw and his drawings reflect his desire for his parents to be together. He says he is happiest when he is with his friends in school but also appreciates how his Papa takes care of him now that his Mama is away.

Despite the family's present condition, Jay remains optimistic about his future and hopes to be a doctor someday.

Gio, the eldest, says that music and peers have helped him cope with the sadness. He copes with the sadness by playing his guitar.

Gio seems to harbor some resentment about his mother's leaving. He feels that she cares more about her work than about him and the family. He thinks staying with the family instead of leaving is a "bigger sacrifice." He is also very disappointed when his Mama doesn't call them.

Hopeful, resilient

Gio though, remains hopeful, confident and resilient despite the sadness and anger that he is feeling. Like Jay, he holds on to hope and believes that things will end up happily for him and his family.

Despite the overwhelming feeling of powerlessness and helplessness that is especially felt by the father, and some of the children, many of these family members have displayed an admirable resilience and eventually found coping mechanisms that worked for them individually.

Out of the pervasive sadness they have been able to draw strength from deep within themselves to look beyond the present situation and imagine a better, happier, more beautiful future when the family will be truly complete.

isives

Wages of the OFW phenomenon

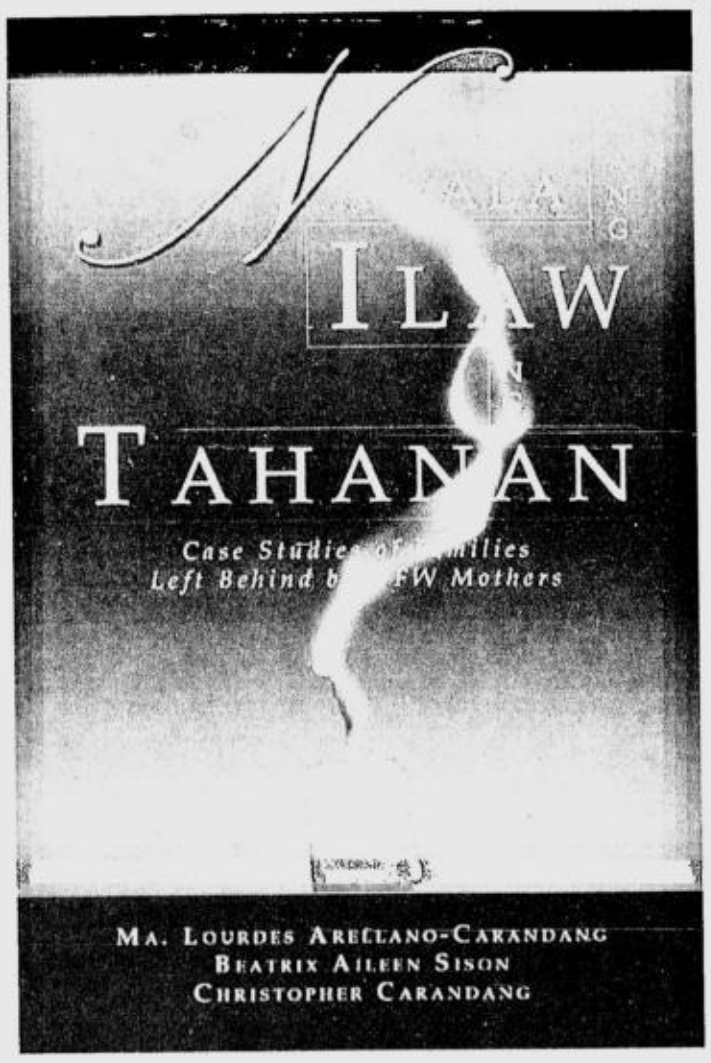
By Cathy S. Babao-Guballa

OFTEN WE IGNORE a problem even if it is already staring at us in the face. By the time that we feel the repercussions of the problem, the damage has already been done and it may be too late.

Such is the phenomenon of children with mothers who are overseas Filipino workers or OFWs. Theirs is a plight that is not often talked about, and in many cases, sadly ignored. Today, there are over eight million Filipinos who work or reside in 194 countries all over the globe.

The economic benefits of large-scale migration are well known and documented. Sen. Mar Roxas has admitted that OFWs "have kept us afloat over the last few years and are thus a central leg of our economy." We sing praises for the modern-day hero or heroine who is the OFW. But heroism at what cost to the Filipino family?

Dr. Honey Carandang's latest book, "Nawala Ang Ilaw Ng Tahanan: Families Left Behind By Filipino Mothers," to be released by Anvil Publishing later this month, outlines the problems this phenomenon has burdened our country with and provides several solutions on what government and the private sector can do to help these families.



Feeling of sadness

Carandang says that what is common among the families is the pervading feeling of sadness and a deep longing for the mother to come home. Accompanying this sadness is a need and wish for family togetherness—the desire to be "whole again" (*mabuo ang pamilya*).

Carandang's study cites the need for the fathers who are left behind to be given assistance in learning how to run the house, take care of their children and to find support systems so that their own needs are met. Fathers need help in accepting their new role and integrating this into their usual perception that of being the family breadwinner.

There are many viable resources outside the nuclear family that are and can be of great help. For example, support systems can be found in grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Constant communication

The school is a valuable and vital resource that can be tapped to help the family. Carandang stresses that since a lot of children find happiness and fulfillment in school, teachers can be trained on how to listen to children of OFWs and help them accordingly.

The quality of the marital relationship between the OFW and the spouse she has left behind can be improved through constant communication via phone or e-mail. Strong communication between husband and wife makes a big difference in the life of the family that has been left behind. Family rituals and a regular prayer time can help the members feel "family togetherness," enabling them to recapture happy family memories.

> OFW parents should not compensate for their absence by buying expensive toys for their children

A strong sense of sadness and disappointment was quite evident in many of the subjects interviewed for Carandang's book. Most of the families felt that their lives did not really improve when the mother left to work overseas. Many of them still lacked money and were sad that the family was not intact.

What then can be done to help alleviate the plight of these families that have been left behind? "All hope is not lost," Carandang says. Though there are financial gains, the emotional costs can be damaging and many children are deeply wounded by the absence of a mother. "This is why we need to act now and urgently create programs for the families left behind in order to lessen the blow brought about by the mother's leaving and to help rebuild the family despite the absence of the mother," she explains.

Healing power

"It is important that the healing power of play be recognized and that these children are allowed to play," she says. It is through play that children get to release and express their feelings about their situation—for example, the fear of being alone.

"Allowing the child to play helps the child gain power over the situation," she stresses.

Sadly, this is often not the case because when the OFW mother leaves, all the members of the family, including the children, adjust and are expected to help out with the household chores and responsibilities.

Sometimes, because of the many responsibilities put on them, they may no longer have time to play. There are times when a father who is stressed out will scold or prohibit the child from playing because of the many chores that need to be done.

No to expensive toys

Another important area that needs to be addressed is the propensity of OFW mothers to buy expensive toys. Many OFW mothers spend a lot of money buying expensive toys for their children, sometimes as a means of compensating for the absence.

Carandang suggests that there be programs to help the mothers validate their experiences and acknowledge their feelings of guilt due to the absence.

"Instead of compensating by buying expensive toys, it is more important for the mother to communicate and express her loving feelings to her children on a regular basis."

Regularity of communication and its reliability is very important to a child because in doing so, the child will know when their mother will call and they are able to have a sense of emotional security that comes with the predictability.

Carandang explains that schools need to be well informed about the dynamics of the families of their students with OFW mothers so that they will know how to handle these students. Workshops and seminars that teach educators listening skills can be very valuable.

The fathers, who are left behind, need just as much help, too.

Support group

"Fathers need to be part of a support group where they are comfortable enough to ask for help and advice in the areas of household chores and child-rearing. Barangays where there is a huge population of husbands of OFWs should ideally have classes or support groups that teach the various skills that men are not usually equipped with," Carandang says. "These groups can incorporate stress management activities where the men can be also taught how to take care of themselves-emotionally and spiritually."

A 2007 Nielsen report cites that one of the largest expenditures an OFW family has is that of cell phone usage. On the average, more than P1,000 per month is spent on cellular phone bills. Among the top five items on a OFWs wish list is the purchase of a family home.

The study also says that OFW families own more television sets than the general population and that ABS-CBN is the network of choice of 64 percent of the families who participated in this survey.

Bearing this in mind, perhaps it is only fitting and morally correct for these institutions to set up, or at least support, the creation of programs for OFWs and their families. At the very least, it would be a small way of paying it forward and directly helping in strengthening the fabric of these Filipino families who have been left behind.

Email cathybabao@gmail.com

The truth, according to OF hildren

By Beatrix Aileen L. Sison
Contributor

IN A HOUSE made of scrap wood, with a roof plastered with loose, rusty iron sheets, the six-year-old boy runs around with his younger cousin. In between running after each other, they would scribble faces and other figures on a paper on top of a recycled table.

While we interviewed his father, the boy would listen while clutching his pretty mother's picture on a heart-shaped plastic frame. Occasionally, in between drawing, he and his cousin would leave and play with the insects crawling around. His mother, who left for Kuwait three years ago, has not been communicating with the family regularly. Despite the deep sadness that this family feels, the boy is still able to play and be happy.

These are scenes we continue to witness in poverty-stricken areas. No matter where we go, no matter what the circumstance the child may be in, he is able to play.

Children as well as adolescents are "truth-tellers." They continue to be our teachers. With the number of years of working with children and their families (street children, gifted, in natural disasters, abused, etc.), we have learned a lot from them. Children see the situation clearly. They are aware of the situation and most of the time would try to solve the problem. They lead the way and show us how to cope, how to gather strength. They are able to pull themselves up from a situation that is full of sadness and longing. Their wisdom and resilience enable the adults to see clearly what is true and healing for the family.

Play

What pulls them up? What helps them cope? What makes them hold on despite the unbearable, sometimes unspeakable pain?

Children's natural way of coping is through play. Through games, they are able to act out and make sense of the situation that they have no control of. It is an avenue to help them release feelings that might otherwise be disapproving to the adults around. Through play they are able to express how the family situation is affecting them and thus gain control over their situation. Play is "empowering"; it is also "self-healing."

Play can also be in the form of other expressive activities (like art, journal writing, music, movement, etc.) that can help the child or the adolescent release his emotions. Through art, a child can draw her emotions without needing to articulate it.

Music, arts therapy

Music is also one form of expressive therapy. Singing a favorite song, composing a song, playing with a musical instrument, being part of a band "jamming," dancing to a favorite song, all help them cope with the absence of their mother.

Creating and telling stories, composing poems also help OFW children express their emotions in a non-threatening manner. Release of pent-up emotions can also be done through the body through sports and dancing.

For others, remembering, looking and admiring the beauty of nature put them through an otherwise sad and heavy situation.

Engaging in household chores can also be a form of coping for these children and adolescents. This is also a time for bonding with the other members of the family.

It is important, though, that time to do work at home is balanced by the time to play and to do other activities that can help the child express how the family situation is affecting him.

School

Aside from the activities that they can do at home, the school can be a major source of support for the children. Knowing that they are good at a certain subject or at a certain skill help them look forward to going to school and cope with the longing and sadness they feel.

This feeling of being competent builds self-confidence. Activities in school are also important—being part of a singing or dancing group, basketball team, scouting group, etc.

Friends in school are an important source of support. OFW children can turn to their peers to share their innermost feelings.

Teachers can be a source of encouragement in affirming them. From their teachers they learn determination to succeed and holding on to dreams and realizing them.

Nurturing presence

The father's nurturing presence is also crucial in helping these children and adolescent cope with their mother's absence.

The support system outside the nuclear family system is also crucial. A nurturing *lola*, a *lolo* who tells stories, a cousin to play with, an uncle who helps take care of children are just some of the other significant caregivers that can help the child and the adolescent cope with the situation.

Unless our economy improves, mothers will continue to leave their children behind in the hope of finding a better future for them. What remains then are an increasing number of children growing up without their mothers. How this will affect their future and the future of the generations to come remains to be seen as the demand for overseas Filipino female workers continues to rise.

What is essential is that the adults (the other parent, extended family members, neighbors, teachers and other caregivers) left behind with the children are able to harness all the forms of resource and support to help these children cope.

Children can cope. They are naturally resilient. What is important is that the adults listen or "tune in" to the children and they will tell us the best way of coping for them.

> Children of OFWs are resilient and find creative ways of coping with the absence of their parents

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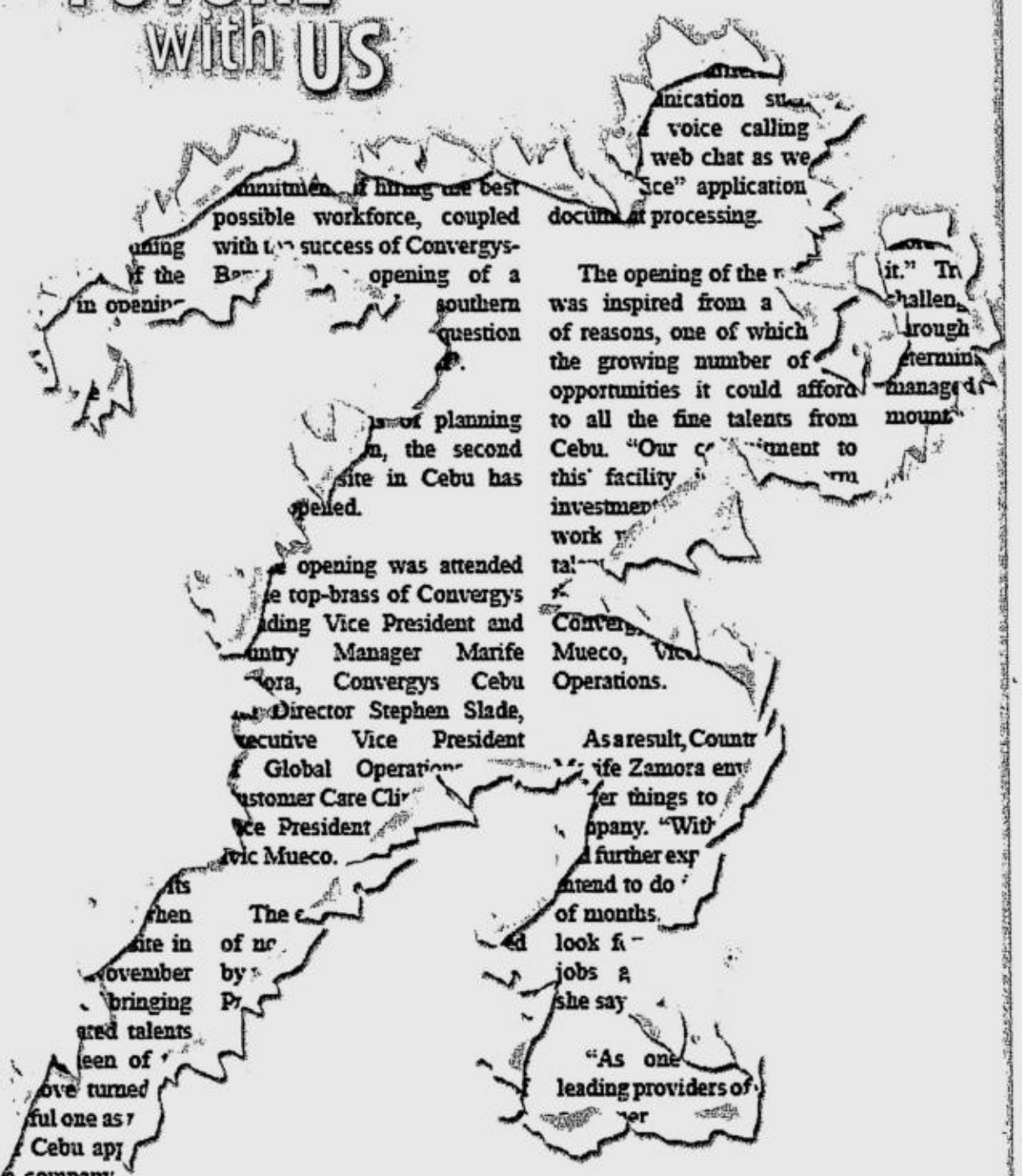

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Nov 1-15 - Convergys Recruitment Kiosk (i2 Bldg Lobby, IT Park)
Nov 13-14 - Jobstreet.com Job fair @ Market Market
Nov 15 - 21 - Exclusive Job Fair in Trinoma (*2nd Level, near Food Choices Area*)
Nov. 16 - 18 - Ayala Job fair (Rotunda Area 2 Fronting Thirsty)
Nov 23-24 - Jobs fair at SM City Manila
Nov 30 - Dec 2 - Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall

*Walk-in applicants in casual attire will be entertained until December.

ALABANG OFFICE
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone, Muntinlupa City
(02) 758-1558 / 7581553

CEBU BANAWA OFFICE
R. Arcenas St., Arcenas Estate, Banawa Hills, Cebu City
(032) 4119217 / 4119218

CEBU ASIATOWN IT PARK OFFICE
11/F i2 Bldg. Asiatown IT Park, Lahug, Cebu City
(032) 4119217 / 4119218

COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
2/F Diliman Commercial Center, #46 Don Mariano Marcos Ave. Diliman, Quezon City.
(02) 756-7019 / 7567200

MAKATI OFFICE
Convergys One, 6796 Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
(02) 792 - 3182 / 7923136

ORTIGAS OFFICE
24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02) 756 -7274 / 8577652

U-BELT OFFICE
Level 1, St. Thomas Square 1150 España Boulevard cor. Padre Campa St. Sampaloc, Manila
(02) 735-2006

VISIT US NOW AND GET YOUR EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM CONVERGYS.

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ROHM

ROHM ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC.

We are expanding for our Test Engineering Group!!!

- **Listed in the TOP 50 Corporations in the Philippines**
- **A consistent Outstanding Exporter Award recipient for 3 years by PEZA**
- **Almost 18 years of stable operation in the Philippines**
- **With more than 3,300 talented employees**

Join us in our urgent manpower hiring for the following positions:

Engineering Graduates

Graduate in BSECE, BSEE, BSIE or BSCoE, not over 25 years old. Familiarity in Test Eng'g functions or PCB design is an advantage, but not required. Graduate in BSME can also apply to work in the Maintenance or Equipment Eng'g Dept. Available to work immediately.

Section Chief

Graduate in BSME/BSECE/BSEE/BSIE/BSCOE with hands on experience in Management & Supervision gained from manufacturing environment, with strong leadership potential, between 24~33 years old.

Specialists

Graduate in BS Accountancy, CPA license an advantage, BS/AB Psychology, BS Industrial Eng'g with relevant work experience in manufacturing environment. The candidate shall be assigned in any of the ff. areas: Accounting, Human Resources or Production Control.

Applicants are requested to apply personally with resumé, transcript of records and calculator for immediate assessment on the following dates:

November 12 & 13, 2007
(Mon & Tue) 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
ROHM Electronics Philippines, Inc.
Peoples Technology Complex, Special Economic Zone, Carmona, Cavite

November 14 & 15, 2007
(Wed & Thu) 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Executive Room - 4/F Metropolis Star Alabang, Muntinlupa City

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The **CEO Group of Companies**, engaged in multi-brand garments retail with main office along EDSA, San Juan, is looking to fill the following positions:

ACCOUNTANT
Female, below 35 y.o.; CPA; with experience, knowledgeable in computerized accounting systems; honest, efficient & self-reliant.

ACCOUNTING CLERK
Female, single, 20-28 y.o.; graduate of Accountancy; experience an advantage; computer-literate; fast & accurate worker.

BRAND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT
Female, single, 20-28 y.o.; graduate of any 4-year course from a reputable school; good command of English, both oral & written; experience in apparel industry a plus; must work well under pressure & be able to assist brand managers in monitoring sales, implementing marketing strategies & allocating merchandise to stores.

VISUAL MERCHANDISER
Female, single, 20-28 y.o.; graduate of any Fine Arts course; knowledgeable in Adobe PhotoShop &/or Corel Draw; experience in retail/window display an advantage; creative & resourceful, w/ a good eye for color; willing to work flexible hours.

COMPUTER ENCORDER
Female, single, 20-26 y.o.; graduate of any 4-year computer course; fast & accurate worker; can work under pressure.

Qualified applicants may email their resumé with ID photo to **hrd@ceo.com.ph** or call 727-6718 for inquiries.

The Girl Scouts of the Philippines, National Headquarters (GSP-NHQ), urgently needs a:

DIRECTOR, National Program & Training Center

Basic Qualifications:

- ✓ College graduate preferably in Hotel & Restaurant Management
- ✓ With at least 2 years experience in managing a Training Center
- ✓ Not more than 45 years old
- ✓ Preferably with Girl Scouting experience
- ✓ Excellent in oral & written communications
- ✓ Computer literate

Please submit resume to:
Personnel Division, GSP-NHQ
901 Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila
(at the back of Manila Science High school)
or e-mail to **uy_edith@yahoo.com.ph**

JOB Market — Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

AEROTECH

INDUSTRIES PHILIPPINES, INC.

has job openings for its aircraft parts production and assembly program and repair / maintenance projects at its aircraft service station in Clark:

AIRCRAFT ASSEMBLY MANAGER (Code: AAM)
- BS Aeronautical Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Technology graduate
- Holder of Engineering or A&P license
- With ten (10) years minimum work experience in aircraft assembly, Troubleshooting, repair on airframe, powerplant, flight controls and landing gear systems
- Systematic in scheduling of work, manning of people, and projection of requirements for the aircraft production/assembly

R.E.I. AND ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR (Code: RES)
- BS Aeronautical Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Technology or Avionics graduate
- With Avionics/R.E.I. license
- With at least ten (10) years work experience in inspection, troubleshooting, repair and undertakes fault diagnosis of electrical, electronics, instruments/ radio systems' components and accessories.
- With supervisory/leadership ability to manage the activities of the REI and electrical team

R.E.I. AND ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS (Code: RET)
- BS Aeronautical Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Technology or Avionics graduate
- With Avionics/R.E.I. license
- With at least five (5) years work experience in the field of avionics

AIRFRAME AND POWERPLANT SUPERVISOR (Code: APS)
- BS Aeronautical Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Technology graduate
- Passed the licensure exam or with A&P license
- With five (5) years minimum work experience in aircraft assembly, troubleshooting, repair on airframe, powerplant, flight controls and landing gear systems
- With supervisory/leadership ability to manage the activities of its team

AIRFRAME AND POWERPLANT TECHNICIANS (Code: APT)
- BS Aeronautical Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Technology graduate
- Passed the licensure exam or with A&P license
- With at least three (3) years work experience in aircraft production/assembly, inspection, troubleshooting and servicing.
- Experience in piping/tube fabrication, fiberglass construction and galvanic treatment work preferred/an advantage

AIRCRAFT PAINTERS (Code: AP)
- Aircraft Maintenance Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Technology graduate
- With A&P license
- With at least three (3) years experience in related work.

QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER/INSPECTORS (Code: QCM/QCI)
- BS Aeronautical Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Technology or Avionics graduate
- With Engineering or A&P license
- With certificate of training in Quality Control/Assurance
- With at least ten (10) years work experience in Quality Control/Assurance

PARTS PRODUCTION MANAGER (Code: PPM)
- BS Aeronautical Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Technology graduate
- Passed the licensure exam or with A&P license
- with at least three (3) years work related experience in creating replenishment forecast, ensure the supply of parts & report & identify causes of delays.

MATERIAL AND PRODUCTION PLANNING MANAGER (Code: MPPM)
- BS Aeronautical Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Technology graduate
- Passed the licensure exam or with A&P license
- With at least five (5) years work experience in directing and managing all material planning functions in relation to analyzing the master production schedule.

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE PLANNERS (Code: AMP)
- BS Aeronautical Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Engineering or Aircraft Maintenance Technology or Avionics graduate
- Passed the licensure exam or with A&P license
- With at least three (3) years work experience
- Preferable with related work experience with material planning & scheduling of aircraft maintenance activities & complying with airworthiness directives, service bulletins and engineering orders, ensuring that modifications are accomplished.

ADMIN & HR SUPERVISOR/MANAGER (Code: ASDS/ASDM)
- BS in Business Administration, Human Resource Management or related degree graduate
- With work experience and skills in organizational development, labor relations, recruitment, training and personnel coordination
- With supervisory/leadership qualities, computer literate and software skills

UTILITY PERSONNEL (Code: UP)
- Male/Female, for both janitorial and messengerial activities
- Preferably knows how to drive//with driver's license
- Hardworking, honest, dependable

Those interested and qualified are invited to send their application letter with comprehensive resume and one (1) passport size photo, indicating the job reference code on the envelope, to:

AEROTECH Industries Philippines, Inc.
Bldg. 7242, Civil Aviation Complex
Clark Freeport Zone Philippines 2023

Or e-mail to: aeroclar@comclark.com

Shortlisted, suitable candidates will be called for interview from 26 November to 07 December 2007. Work/Contract begins January 2008.

HOTEL GENERAL / RESIDENT MANAGER AND SALES / MARKETING HEAD

A 60-room standard Airport Hotel with modern facilities, near the Domestic and International Airports is looking for bright, young HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS for the following positions:

- **GENERAL MANAGER / RESIDENT MANAGER / ASSISTANT MANAGER**
- **SALES / MARKETING OFFICER**
- **FINANCE MANAGER**

Applicants must be college graduates and must have at least 3 years of management experience in the same or similar positions. Applicants may submit their Curriculum Vitae with colored photograph addressed to:

The General Manager
The Nichols Airport Hotel
484 Quirino Avenue, Tambo, Parañaque,
Metro Manila
Tel. 853-1848 • Fax 853-1809

Community Crafts Association of the Philippines, Inc.
a Fair Trade organization currently looking for qualified applicants to fill in the following positions.

PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

- Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts, preferably major in Industrial Design
- Proficient in the use of Photoshop, Corel and MS Office such as Word, Excel and Access
- Preferably with experience in designing and development of handicrafts products
- Excellent written and oral communication skills both in English and Filipino
- Must be willing to conduct fieldwork

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- Bachelor's Degree in any Social Science course, a License of Social Worker is an advantage
- Must have background in program/project development, monitoring and evaluation
- Preferably, with experience in an NGO engaged in social enterprise development and/or non-formal education
- Excellent written and oral communication skills both in English and Filipino
- Must be willing to conduct fieldwork.

WAREHOUSE AND SHIPMENT COORDINATOR

- Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineer or related course on Warehouse Management and Shipment
- Experience in warehousing and/or shipment operations and management is an advantage
- Knowledge and application of MS Office such as Word and Excel is preferred
- Excellent written and oral communication skills both in English and Filipino
- Must be willing to go on fieldwork.

PROPERTY AND SUPPLY CUSTODIAN

- Business Management graduate preferably with experience
- Proficient in the use of MS Office such as Word, Excel and Access (Database)
- Excellent written and oral communication skills both in English and Filipino

Interested applicants may send their resumé to CCAP Bldg., 693 Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya St., Quezon City and look for Ms. Janice P. Leguiab for interview/schedule or send thru email to ccap@ccapfairtrade.ph

Our company is an ISO 9001:2000 Certified Engineering Design Consultancy and Construction Management Firm. For more than 23 years, ESCA has developed and expanded its services to meet the increasing demand of a wide range of clientele here and abroad. We take pride in taking care of our PEOPLE and using the latest TECHNOLOGY in delivering e-ENGINEERING SERVICES that are at par with the world's best.

A rewarding career with a great company. A rare opportunity to join a strong, experienced and focused team. Great culture, great projects.

BE A WORLD CLASS ENGINEER! BE AN ESCA ENGINEER!

Set your CAREER on track!

We are in search for TOP CALIBER and PROACTIVE individuals to fill in the following positions:

CIVIL WORKS DESIGN MANAGER — Registered Professional; Knowledgeable in AutoCAD, Autodesk Land Development Desktop and/or Civil 3D; Minimum of 10 years extensive experience; Strong management leadership and interpersonal skills; Previous experience on US projects an advantage

CIVIL WORKS DESIGN ENGINEERS — Registered Professional; Knowledgeable in AutoCAD and Autodesk Land Development Desktop; Must have at least 2 years relevant engineering design experience; Previous experience on US projects an advantage but not necessary; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision

STRUCTURAL DESIGN ENGINEERS — Registered Professional; Knowledgeable in STAAD Pro, ETABS, and other engineering design software; Must have at least 2 years relevant engineering design experience; Experience in industrial facilities such as power plants, cement plants, refineries and precast concrete design and detailing; Previous experience on US projects an advantage but not necessary; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision

PROJECT ENGINEERS — Registered Civil Engineer; With extensive 3 to 5 years experience in Project Construction and Management; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision; Willing to be assigned anywhere

STEEL DETAILERS — BS Architecture or Civil Engineering course graduate; Knowledgeable in X Steel software; Must have at least 6 months relevant experience; Can produce structural steel fabrication outputs; Experience in industrial facilities such as power plants, cement plants, refineries and precast concrete design and detailing; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision

CAD SURVEY DESIGNER — BS Architecture, Civil or Geodetic Engineering course graduate; Experience in CAD Surveys; Can prepare preliminary and final parcel, tract and cadastral maps, record of survey production and topographic maps using AutoCAD; Knowledge in LDD/Microstation/In-Roads experience an advantage; With good communication skills and can work with minimum supervision

CADD OPERATORS — BS Architecture or Civil Engineering course graduate; Proficient in the use of AutoCAD, Architectural Desktop, 3D Studio or any engineering\architectural\mechanical software; Must have at least 2 years relevant experience; Experience on precast concrete detailing an advantage; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision

ARCHITECTS — Registered Professional; Must have at least 3 years relevant experience; Creative in conceptualization; Proficient in AutoCAD\Corel and other architectural software; Can prepare plans from Design to Construction; With good communication skills and can work with minimal supervision; Willing to be assigned abroad

QUALITY CONTROL MANAGERS — Registered Professional Civil Engineer / Architect; Knowledge in the use of AutoCAD and other engineering/architectural design software; Must have at least 5 to 7 years relevant experience in the same field; Commitment to excellence and high standards, including strong attention to detail; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Strong organizational, problem solving and analytical skills; Proven ability to handle multiple projects and meet deadlines; Willing to be assigned abroad

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT — Graduate of any 4 year business course; With at least 2 years relevant experience; Knowledge in MS Office Applications; Possesses extensive knowledge in business evaluation and project feasibility studies; Excellent in oral and written communication skills; With deep sense of commitment and business acumen; Resourceful and keen to details; Can work with minimal supervision; Willing to work on extended hours

PROGRAMMERS – Graduate of BS Computer Science or any equivalent; At least 1 year relevant experience; Proficient in C++, ASP.NET, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Flash, PHP, CSS; Can work with minimum supervision and extended hours

Successful candidates await great and rewarding employment career opportunities and a chance to go abroad.

If you feel you have what it takes and have the passion for being with the WORLD CLASS, join us and be part of our WINNING TEAM today. You may apply personally or send your updated resumé with application letter to:

ESCA INCORPORATED
ENGINEERS • CONSULTANTS • PROJECT MANAGERS

The Human Resources Department
2nd Floor ESCA GLOBAL CENTRE
No. 78 8th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 439-29-88/497-05-98/421-59-75
Email: hrd@escaengineers.com

TÜV

ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

The ICRC Delegation to the Philippines is looking for suitable candidates to fill the following vacancies:

COMMUNICATION MANAGER

PROFILE AND REQUIRED EXPERIENCE:
- University degree in communication, journalism, or in social/political sciences, international public law or another field combined with practical work experience in communication
- 5 years work experience in public relations, communications, public affairs or media relations, preferably in the non-profit sector. Former experience in a NGO/International or Inter-Governmental Organization/ Governmental agency is an asset.
- Experience in developing strategic communication plans and managing public relations activities for various stakeholders
- Experience in building strong networks with media contacts and developing creative public communication approaches
- Experienced in production of attractive printed and audio-visual communication tools
- Experienced in public speaking and/or training environments
- Programme management experience, including management of budgets
- Strong analytical and writing skills
- Sound knowledge of the political, social and humanitarian environment of the Philippines.
- Good computer skills (MS Word, Excel, Ppt are those applications currently in use)
- Excellent written and verbal command of English and Tagalog, Cebuano is an assel
- Ability to work with people from a broad range of backgrounds and cultures
- Team spirit (Department encompassing, as of today, 5 staff members and work in relation to external partners)
- Flexibility and ability to work to deadlines and prioritise tasks
- Capacity to apply ICRC rules and procedures

MAIN TASKS:
The Communication Manager will contribute to the development and management of communication strategies aiming at promoting ICRC's humanitarian activities in the Philippines. He/She will develop and manage relationships with a wide range of stakeholders, including the media, community leaders, political institutions and NGOs/INGOs. He/she will produce publications, newsletters, press releases and audio-visual material. He/she will contribute to the management of an effective partnership with the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) in the field of communication.

DRIVER

REQUIREMENTS:
- College level
- 2 years work experience in a similar function
- Basic knowledge of English
- Driving license for at least 5 years
- Excellent driving skills
- Good knowledge of the geographical area of Metro Manila and Luzon
- Masters 4/4 and VHF use

MAIN TASKS:
- Drives different types of light ICRC vehicles by strictly following internal ICRC security and national traffic rules
- Transports people and/or material
- Checks equipment on attributed cars
- Ensures proper fuelling and cleaning

Assets:
- Previous experience working within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and/or other international humanitarian organisations,
- Strongly motivated to humanitarian work

What we offer:
- Good compensation
- Interesting and rewarding work
- Humanitarian and international environment

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resume, recent NBI clearance and explain in their application letter their motivation and interest in the position as well as salary expectation to the address below not later than 21 November 2007.

The Administrator, ICRC, 5th Floor, Erechem Bldg., Salcedo corner VA Rufino Streets, Legaspi Village Makati City. Or by email: icrc_manila@yahoo.com.ph

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

For Immediate Hiring

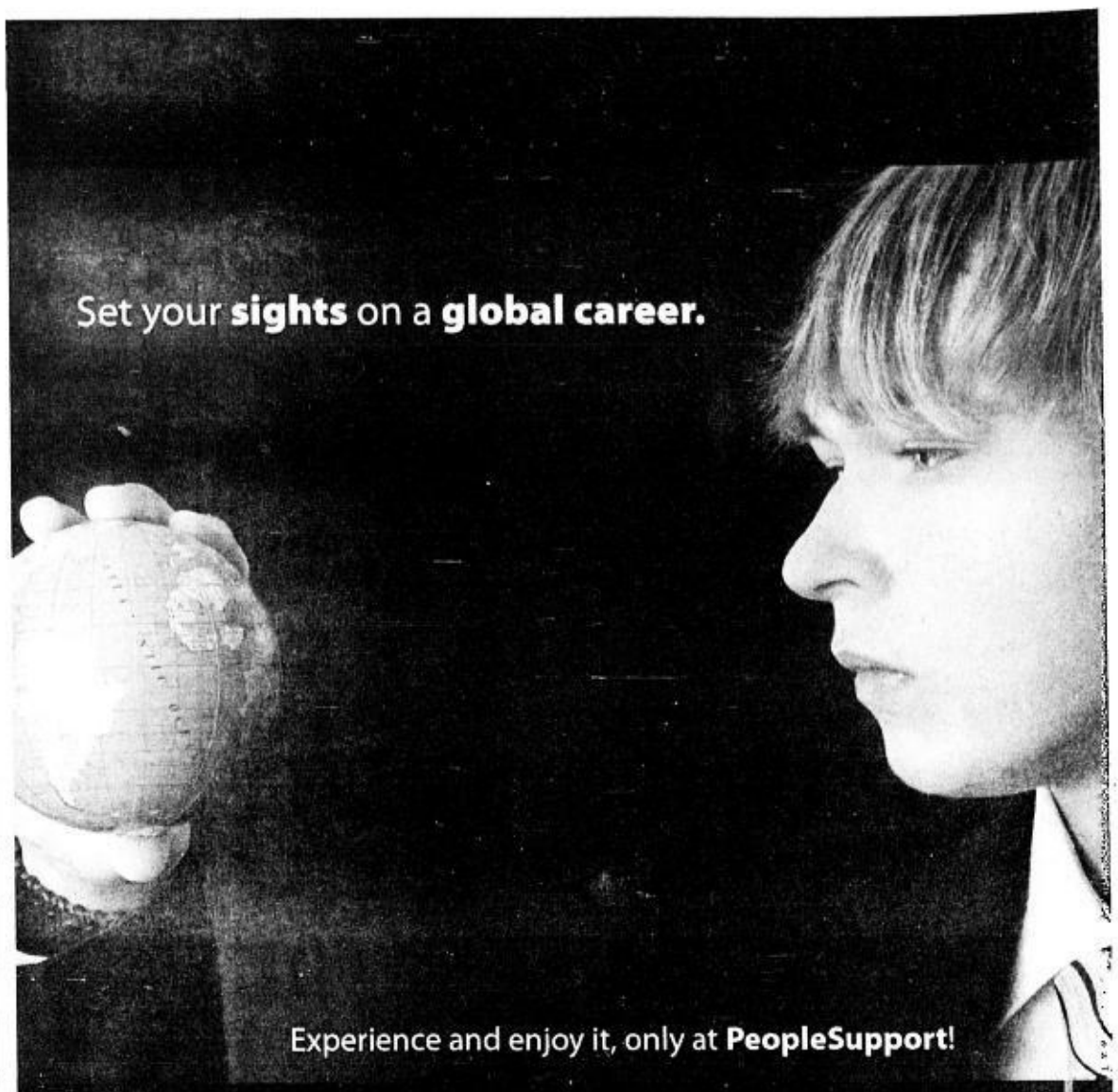
JUNIOR AUDITORS

not more than 30 years old, Single, computer literate, **BS Accountancy** graduate preferably with audit experience, apply at:

507 Landsdale Tower
86 Mother Ignacia Ave., Quezon City
Tel. 371-1351/371-1304
ask for Jane or Joann

URGENT FOR U.S.A.
FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT!!!
HOTEL HOUSEKEEPERS • RESTAURANT WORKERS
Must have experience under H2-B visa
OTHER JOB OPENINGS FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!
Canada: Hotel Housekeepers
Australia: Bread Bakers – A1 Carpenters
Apply personally ASAP!!! Bring resume with job description – copies of credentials – 2pcs. 2x2 pictures for interview from Monday to Friday – 9am to 5pm.
UNIPLAN OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT, INC.
302 JP Rizal St., Proj. 4, Quezon City
POEA Lic. No. 375-LB-011604-
BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS. NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

JOB Market VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com



For positions listed below, kindly email your resumé to
philippinecorpjobs@peoplesupport.com
indicate position in the subject line.

MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR EXPANSION AND GROWTH

ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES
Front Desk Administrator
Office Manager (Baguio)
Safety and Security Associate

BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT
Sr. Analyst for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Greenbelt)
Sr. Manager for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Blackbelt)

FINANCE
Accounting Assistant (Employee Transactions/Accounts Receivable)
Accounting Assistant (Fixed Asset)
Accounting Associate (Accounts Payable)
Accounting Associate (Financial Reporting and Analysis)
Financial Analyst
Revenue Analyst
Risk Management Officer
Tax Analyst

HUMAN RESOURCES
Consulting Manager – Employee Relations (Manila/Baguio)
Corporate Recruitment Officer
Director – Recruitment
HR Advisor – Employee Relations (Cebu)
HR Assistant – Compensation and Benefits
HR Assistant – Organizational Development
HR Assistant – Recruitment (Baguio)
HR Associate – Compensation and Benefits (Cebu)
HR Helpdesk Analyst
HR Officer – Employee Relations (Baguio)
Technical Recruiter (Cebu)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Business Analyst
Consulting and Implementation Manager
Data Quality Manager
Database Administrator
Desktop Analyst
HRMS Database Administrator
IT Specialist (Baguio)
Platform Administrator
Reports Analyst/Developer
Server Systems Specialist (Cebu)
Sr. Business Analyst
Telecom Administrator (Cebu)

OPERATIONS
Operations Manager for Technical Account (Cebu)

TRAINING
Career Development Trainer
Communication Trainer (Cebu)
Leadership Development Training Manager
Sr. Management Development Trainer

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT
Director/Manager – Workforce
Real-time Analyst
Workforce Analyst

PeopleSupport is currently in search for eRep Professionals in the following fields:

Banking & Finance
IT Telco / Networking
Sales (Inbound & Outbound)
Transcription
Travel

Makati City
PeopleSupport Center
Ayala cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues
Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturday, 9:00am to 3:00pm
HR Hotline: (02) 755-2600
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu City
PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday,
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222
cebu@peoplesupport.com

Baguio City
PeopleSupport Baguio
SM Fiesta Strip Building,
Harrison Road, Baguio City
baguiojobs@peoplesupport.com

Davao City
B-1 Luisa Avenue Square,Jacinto Extension
Monday to Saturday, 9:00am to 6:00pm
HR Hotline: (082) 227-9301
davaojobs@peoplesupport.com

PEOPLESUPPORT

It's gotta be Shakey's

We have What it Takes

At Shakey's we are passionate about the friendliness of our staff and our great tasting pizza. We provide an energetic environment to every guest, every time.

We are looking for staff who shares our passion for the hospitality industry. We offer a great career with unlimited opportunities for growth and compensation that is among the best in the industry.

Serving the World's Greatest Pizza For More Than 30 Years!

Now hiring for:

Restaurant Manager/ Management Trainee

- Male or Female
- 21-35 years old
- College Graduate, preferably with a degree in Hotel & Restaurant Management, Marketing, Food Nutrition or any Management courses
- Should possess very good leadership and management skills
- Must be flexible, analytical and can deal with people from different levels of the organization
- Computer literacy is a must

Restaurant Staff

- Male or Female
- 18 – 24 years old
- At least college level
- Height at least M: 5'4" F: 5'0"
- With pleasing personality
- Excellent communication skills

You know you'd fit in if you are:

- Thinking of a career in the service industry
- A people person
- Guest focused
- Infectiously enthusiastic
- Energetic and fun
- Motivated to be the best you can be

Come for an interview on Monday, November 12, 2007, 9:00 a.m. at Shakey's Tomas Morato

For RM's and MT's, please send resume to: maperez@shakeyspizza.ph
or to the Recruitment Officer
International Family Food Services Inc.
AFP- RSBS Industrial Park C5 cor. East Service Road, Taguig City

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IRRI

The **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)** is seeking for talented Filipino nationals to work at its headquarters in **Los Baños, Laguna**. Supported by the **Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)**, IRRI is a non-profit, publicly funded international organization engaged in the research and development of rice-related technologies for poor farmers.

Financial Operations Unit invites applicants for the position:

Officer-Financial Operations (2007-R-118)

Job Summary:

The successful candidate shall manage, monitor and control accounts receivable-related transactions of Nationally Recruited Staff in accordance with institute policies and guidelines.

Qualification requirements:

- Bachelor of Science in Commerce major in Accounting, preferably CPA.
- At least 2 years relative experience in a multi-national or non-profit organization
- Experience in using financial system software; excellent oral and written communication skills; reporting and presentation skills; proficient in MS Excel, Word, Power Point and Outlook.
- Confidentiality, objectivity and strong commitment to excellence; strong attention to detail; deadline-oriented; high standard of integrity and personal conduct; multi-tasking; team player; highly organized, dependable, hard working and self-motivated; positive attitude

Officer – Financial Operations (2007-R-119)

Job Summary:

The successful candidate shall act as cashier in charge of disbursement, money exchange and collections. He/She shall account for all signed checks, control all accountable forms and responsible for releasing of all checks, demand drafts, and bank advice.

Qualification requirements:

- Recognized university degree in Bachelor Administration Major in Accounting/Finance.
- At least 2 years experience in reputable firm.
- High level of computer literacy, communication skills, analytical skills, public relation skills.
- High standard of integrity and strong commitment to excellence, confidentiality, personal conduct, deadline oriented, multi-tasking, hardworking, and self-motivated.

Applications : Qualified candidates can submit letter of application, comprehensive resume, transcript of records, name and contact details of 3 referees to IRRI Recruitment at the **HRS-NS Office, FF Hill Building, IRRI Los Baños, Laguna** or email **to IRRIRecruitment@cgiar.org.** They can also mail application with complete requirements to:

Officer-Financial Operations (2007-R-118/119)
Human Resources Services – National Staff
International Rice Research Institute
DAPO Box 7777 Metro Manila

* Screening will start on **14 November 2007** and shall continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

HealthGov
Strengthening Local Governance for Health

The **Strengthening Local Governance for Health (HealthGov) Project** is a USAID-funded project supporting the government's efforts to provide improved basic health services in partnership with over 550 local government units (LGUs) throughout the Philippines.

HealthGov is in search of a qualified team member for the following key position:

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Code: M&E-01

Responsibilities:

Based at the national Project office in Manila, the M&E Specialist is responsible for the management and implementation of the Project's M&E systems and procedures. The Specialist will supervise the work of the MIS Specialist and provide guidance to field-based Project staff involved in data collection and analysis. Specific responsibilities of the M&E Specialist include:

- Develop, manage and maintain the Project's M&E system, including the development of performance indicators, milestones and baseline conditions;
- Supervise the collection, analysis and reporting on performance indicators by other team members and Project counterparts;
- Prepare data tabulations, reports, and presentations to support project activities;
- Identify, recruit and supervise consultants and contractors supporting M&E activities;
- Prepare monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports on the status of Project implementation; contribute to other Project reports such as annual work plans;
- Regularly review and update the project's M&E plan.

Qualifications:

- Postgraduate degree in Sociology, Demography, Public Administration, Public Health, or other relevant field;
- A minimum of 5 years experience in developing, managing and implementing M&E programs and systems,
- Experience in data collection and analysis, database management, and management information systems;
- Knowledge of public health and local government operations;
- Experience in donor-funded projects (prior USAID project experience an advantage);
- Ability to function well in a dynamic environment and as part of a small team of dedicated experts.

Please send an application letter together with your curriculum vitae not later than **November 23, 2007** to:

e-mail: info2007healthgov@gmail.com
fax: (+632) 706-1419
mail: Chief of Party
HealthGov Project - RTI International
Lower Penthouse 3203-3204
Tycoon Centre Condominium
Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center
1605 Pasig City

RTI INTERNATIONAL

(Please indicate the position code on the envelope or in the subject heading of your email).

SALES & MARKETING ACHIEVERS

We are a fast growing company in the food and beverage industry. We are looking for sales and marketing professionals that can fill up the following positions:

REGIONAL BUSINESS MANAGER

Will develop and implement market penetration strategy in key cities and provinces in the Vis Min area. Candidate will either be based in Vis Min or if Metro Manila based, willing to spend majority of time in key markets in Vis Min. P30K to 40 K.

MARKETING ASSOCIATE

Will assist in promoting and developing dealer relationships and perform brand/product management functions. P20K to 30K.

EXPORT MANAGER

Will develop and implement export strategy. Candidate must have experience in the export sector and willing to travel and develop marketing linkages in key foreign markets. Compensation (salary and performance incentive) negotiable. Also willing to entertain contract arrangement on a success fee basis.

INSTITUTIONAL SALES PROFESSIONALS

Will concentrate on hotels and restaurants. P10K to 20K with attractive performance incentive.

ROUTE SALES PERSONNEL

Openings are in Metro Manila and Provincial Luzon. Not much work experience required but a lot of hard work involved. Around P10K plus sales commissions.

If you think any one of these positions matches your background, initiative, drive, people skills, write us a letter indicating the opening that you feel qualified to fill up and why. Address it to the

Marketing Director, Food & Beverage,
Fax No. (02) 712-2581
or email us at **megatln@yahoo.com**

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1. OPERATION MANAGER

- 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS AN OPERATION MANAGER
- KNOW HOW TO SPEAK KOREAN LANGUAGE
- ABILITY TO WORK ON PROBLEM WHERE ANALYSIS OF SITUATION REQUIRE
- 30 TO 40 YEARS OLD
- MALE

2. MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- 5 TO 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A MECHANICAL ENGINEER IN CONSTRUCTION
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- KNOW HOW TO SPEAK KOREAN LANGUAGE
- COLLEGE GRADUATE

QUALIFIED APPLICANT MAY APPLY AT:

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15-18 SUBIC COMMERCIAL LIGHT AND INDUSTRIAL PARK
SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

I. SALESMAN

Qualifications:

- College graduate in engineering or marketing
- Working knowledge of industrial and domestic heating equipment and installation
- With at least (3) years experience in sales
- Male, 23-35 years old
- Strong negotiating skills
- Pleasing personality

II. DIESEL MECHANIC

Qualifications:

- With 3 years work experience
- 25 to 35 years old
- Must have knowledge and skills in auto electrical works
- With good moral character
- Willing to work long hours

Submit your applications to:
Northern Gas Corporation
4 Seminary Road, EDSA (near FORD-Balintawak)
Brgy. Bahay Toro, Quezon City
Tel. # 927-51-95

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACCOUNTING STAFF - Male/Female. 21-28 years old, Graduate of BS Accountancy, can work with minimal supervision, willing to work long hours.

HR ANALYST/OFFICER - Male/Female. 21-28 years old, Graduate of BS Psychology or any related course, Pleasing personality

IT STAFF - Male. 21-28 years old, Graduate of IT related course, Knows how to troubleshoot computers, Able to use Visual Basic Programming

SECRETARY - Male/Female. 21-26 years old, Graduate of Custom Administration course, has knowledge in Cargo/Shipment

Interior Designer - Male/Female. 21-28 years old, Graduate of BS Interior Design, pleasing personality.

Technician - Male/Female. 21-30 years old, Graduate of any 2 year vocational course, knowledge in electronic troubleshooting and installing

Also Hiring : **Promodizers, Graphic Artist, Data Encoder, Office Staff, Marketing Officer, Receptionist, Messenger, Service Crew, Bartender**

Interested applicants apply in person bring 2 copies of resume and 2pcs. 2x2 pictures. **No** fees are to be collected.

MLS' Builder & Service Corporation
Unit 15-D, 15 Floor 358 Petron Mega Plaza
Gil Puyat Avenue, Brgy. Bel Air, Makati
Tel. No. 844-5545

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TELESALES EXECUTIVE – Preferably female, not more than 30 years old, College Graduate, with or without experience, computer literate, with excellent oral and communication skills, result oriented and team driven. Fresh graduates from a reputable school are encouraged to apply.

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Interested applicants should email their comprehensive resumé with latest 2x2 photo and position applied for to: *hrd@speedway.com.ph*

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Knowledge of CSS is a plus.

Marketing Assistant

21-30 yrs old, College Graduate, BS Marketing
Proficient in MS-Word, MS-Excel, E-mail
Fluent in English

Executive Secretary

21-35 yrs old, Computer-literate,
Proficient in MS-Word, MS-Excel, E-mail
Fluent in English

Please email your resume to
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or Ernie Calderon (JUVECA)

Please cut this ad & bring upon application

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PRODUCTION ENGINEER & CADET ENGINEERS

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. MALE; Age = 25 to 40 years old;
2. Engineering Graduate (Preferably Mechanical/ Electrical; Chemical Engineers);
3. Experience in Steel & PVC production a plus factor. (With knowledge in Extruder machines)
4. Residents of Quezon City or nearby cities preferred.

SUBMIT RESUMÉ/CONTACT
(with necessary documents/paper) at:

#128 Quirino Highway, Baesa, Quezon City, M.M.
Phone Nos. 330-7025 to 29
Look for: Nelson C. Ong
Personnel Dept.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

RESIDENT MANAGER

- EXPERIENCE IN HOTEL/RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT A MUST
- PROVEN PERFORMANCE RECORD FOR DEVELOPING/SUPERVISING A TEAM
- AMBITIOUS

FRONT DESK OFFICER

- GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS A MUST

APPLY PERSONALLY BETWEEN 10AM-2PM
or email resumé to **decor@eurolux.com**

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Venue : HYATT HOTEL & CASINO MANILA – 1588 Pedro Gil Corner M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila.
Date : 25th November 2007
Time : 0900 a.m. sharp

Please bring your resume along with full length and passport size photographs.
Shortlisted candidates will be required to attend further processes during the course of the week.

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CONVENTION & EXHIBITS DIVISION MANAGER

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE AT LEAST TEN (10) YEARS MANAGERIAL EXPERIENCE IN THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY, PREFERABLY FROM HOTELS AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTERS, WITH EXTENSIVE EXPOSURE TO SALES & MARKETING, EXHIBITS, EVENTS & CONVENTION MANAGEMENT.

CONVENTION MANAGER

THE CONVENTION MANAGER SHOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE ON BANQUET SALES AND CONVENTION MANAGEMENT, PREFERABLY DERIVED FROM A PRESTIGIOUS COMPANY IN THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY. HANDS-ON MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF CONFERENCES, MEETINGS AND GROUP FUNCTIONS IS REQUIRED.

EVENT MANAGER

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN PLANNING, DIRECTING, CONCEPTUALIZING AND IMPLEMENTING EVENTS, CONVENTIONS AND EXHIBITS FROM A PRESTIGIOUS EVENT MANAGEMENT, MULTINATIONAL OR SERVICE-ORIENTED COMPANY.

SALES AND MARKETING OFFICER

THE SALES & MARKETING OFFICER SHALL DEVELOP NEW ACCOUNTS FOR SMX AND AT THE SAME TIME MARKET THE VENUE AS THE "CONVENTION DESTINATION IN ASIA," IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY FOR THE APPLICANTS TO HAVE AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF SALES AND MARKETING PREFERABLY FROM THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY WITH A WIDE NETWORK OF CONTACTS/CLIENTS.

EVENT COORDINATOR

APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE TWO (2) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN EVENT, CONVENTION AND EXHIBIT COORDINATION FROM A REPUTABLE COMPANY BELONGING TO THE EVENTS/HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY.

PLEASE SEND YOUR APPLICATION LETTER , RESUME AND RECENT 2X2 COLORED PHOTO TO:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, SM CORPORATE OFFICES, BLDG. B, 1000 BAY BOULEVARD, SM CENTRAL BUSINESS PARK, PASAY CITY
OR YOU MAY SEND YOUR APPLICATION TO
careers@smsupermalls.com

SM SUPERMALLS

JOHN HAY MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
JHMC
a subsidiary of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority

We are in need of

LEGAL ASSISTANTS

Description : Responsible for Legal Management Services and ensures compliance with all relevant rules and regulations
Education : Bachelor of Laws, RA 1080
Experience : At least one (1) year in the practice of law
Skills : Well-versed in contract management, land disputes, litigation and corporate law, highly organized, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, excellent in planning, leading, organizing, and controlling

Preferably a resident of Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba or Manila

All interested applicants are requested to submit their Application Letter, Resumé with ID Picture and three (3) Character References on or before November 16, 2007 to:

THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
John Hay Management Corporation
Bell House Basement, Historical Core, Camp John Hay, Baguio City
P.O. Box 1088
Telephone Nos. (074) 444-8980 to 81 and (074) 444-5823 to 24
Email: **jhmgmtcorp@yahoo.com**

Well-established marketing and distribution company for Hardware and Automotive products urgently needs personnel for the following positions

MARKETING OFFICER
- Male or Female
- With supervisory experience but not necessary

SALES SUPERVISOR
- Male or Female, with supervisory experience

FIELD SALES REPRESENTATIVES
- Male or Female, at least 22 years old

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
- Graduate of BS Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Male or Female, 25 years old
- Able to identify and evaluate electronic repair

AUDIO/VIDEO ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS
- Male or Female, at least 23 years old

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
- 30 years old, Female

ACCOUNTING STAFF
- Female, Knowledgeable in bookkeeping, financial statement and processing government requirements

GENERAL CLERK
- Female, at least 20 years old

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JOB Market

SAP Consultants/Trainees (Functional)

- Have experience in either business operations related to OR actual SAP consulting in any of these SAP modules – Finance and Controlling, Production Planning, Materials Management, Sales and Distribution, Business Warehouse, Human Resource, Plant Maintenance, Project Systems, Customer Service, Treasury Management, Real Estate Management, Supply Chain Management, Enterprise Portal, Exchange Insfrastructure
- For Trainees – At least one year extensive experience in business operation related to above-mentioned SAP module (actual SAP experience preferred but not required)
- For Consultants – At least one lifecycle implementation involving any of the above-mentioned SAP Modules.
- Have practical experience in conducting requirements analysis, business process design, configuration and/or implementation in the area of expertise
- Qualified Trainees and Consultants may undergo SAP course and certification track

SAP Consultants/Trainees (Technical – ABAP, BASIS)

- For Trainees – At least one year intensive experience in programming (any language) and/or database administration (actual ABAP or BASIS experience preferred but not required)
- For Consultants – At least two years experience in ABAP development or BASIS, preferably within full development lifecycle
- Knowledge of operations or business process related to any SAP module will be an advantage

Project Managers (IT Consulting)

- At least three years experience in managing profitable IT consulting projects
- Knowledgeable in systems implementation lifecycle
- Must be familiar with SAP and/or other ERP systems
- PMP Certification is a plus

Chief Representative (Vietnam)

- Proven record in marketing and sales, preferably in IT consulting and/or education services
- Has experience related to leading and managing a satellite office with complete functions --- business development, academy operations, consulting, finance, IT, human resource and admin
- Willing to be assigned long term in Ho Chi Minh City and other areas in Vietnam
- MBA preferred but not required

English Instructors (Vietnam)

- At least two years experience in teaching English as a second language to Adult Learners
- Excellent written and spoken English skills
- Above average presentation skills
- TEFL, TESOL or CELTA certification is highly preferred
- Willing to be assigned long term in Ho Chi Minh City and other areas in Vietnam

Business Development Assistants/Officers

- For Assistant level -- At least six (6) months work experience as an outbound call center agent OR at least six (6) months work experience in accounts management, marketing or business development.
- For Officer level – Must have sales experience in IT consulting, education services and multimedia training
- Proficient in conducting market research and analysis
- Can interact with people from different social backgrounds and age groups
- Capable of executing business development activities with minimal supervision
- Creative and has a penchant for out-of-the-box ideas
- Excellent time management skills
- Willing to travel

IT Applications Managers (Manufacturing, Sales and Distribution, Financial)

- At least three years managerial experience in developing, implementing and maintaining IT applications and processes to enhance operational support
- Exposed and committed to upholding service level agreements
- Demonstrable skill in technical problem solving
- Sufficient hardware knowledge to support technology and applications
- Has experience in quality management systems for IT procedures and applications
- Graduate studies in IT is an advantage

QMS Specialist

- At least two years experience in managing quality systems, preferably in IT industry
- Knowledgeable in the set-up of ISO systems and acquisition of certified status
- In-depth knowledge of quality metrics, ISO standards and processes

Training Specialists

- For BPO Training Specialist -- At least three years experience as a trainer in BPO or contact-center environment
- For Academy Training Specialist – At least five years experience in OD consulting and conduct of public or customized training courses. Exposure to several industries a definite advantage.
- Practical experience in full training delivery – from content development to course conduct to evaluation
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Head Office
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Fax No: +63.2.370.1189
E-mail: marketing@kaisa.com
Website: www.kaisa.com

Kaisa Academy
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Tel. No. +63.2.370.1188; +63.2.844.7777

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Deadline for submission: **16 Nov, 2007**

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

MALE ADMINISTRATIVE/ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Male, 28 – 35 yrs. old; U.P. graduate
- 5 yrs work experience as an Admin Assistant or Executive Assistant reporting to a senior corporate officer
- Proficient in written and oral English
- Knowledgeable in computer applications and web research
- Results-oriented, with analytical & administration skills
- Excellent comprehension and listening skills
- Organized and systematic
- Must possess personal and professional integrity
- Willing to work beyond office hours
- Must be committed to the job

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PROJECT ENGINEER

- Graduate of Civil Engineering, Architecture or its equivalent course, preferably professional licensed holder
- With at least 5 years work experience acquired in a construction or project management services company
- With in depth knowledge in structural engineering and Construction Code of the Philippines
- Capable of managing projects simultaneously
- Exposed in cost planning and management, acquired in a construction or project management set-up
- With good leadership and supervisory skills
- Able to communicate with all levels in the organization
- Willing to be assigned in provinces
- Familiar and capable of implementing construction safety

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You must have at least one-year experience in sales and marketing and also possess the ability to coordinate with events and production.

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You must possess leadership abilities. You must be able to formulate and implement sales strategies.

You must be willing to work well under pressure and possess the ability to produce results when needed.

You must be able to coordinate and work well with clients, media, and support staff.

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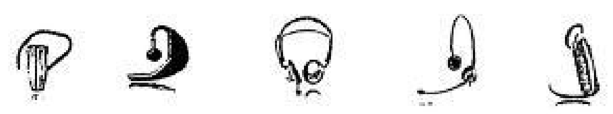

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Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably BS Secretarial Course
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Qualifications:

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- Background in Computer hardware
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Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:
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Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
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E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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With more than 60 years of experience in the pump technology business, the name Grundfos is synonymous with high quality, efficient and reliable pumping solutions in commercial and domestic markets.
Due to our expansion plan, we seek dynamic and relentless individual to fill the positions below.

Sales Engineer (1)

CHALLENGES

Your main challenge is achieving the sales target of the designated market/product and promoting the Company's products to various levels of customers and achieving the sales quota assigned. You will need to establish good rapport with the customers, advise and update clients on products' applications knowledge and recommend appropriate pump system solutions. This includes pre-sales work such as quotations and system calculations as well as following up on billing and debt collections and handling of the designated Dealer's accounts.

YOUR BACKGROUND

You should possess a diploma or degree in Mechanical Engineering. You should have 2-3 years technical sales experience in wastewater pump business, preferably with good knowledge of pumping system.

At least 25-35 years old, pro-active and resourceful individual, who possesses excellent negotiation, communication and motivation skills. You must also be computer literate, willing to be trained and to travel (local and abroad).

Accountant (1)

CHALLENGES

- Manage the day-to-day operations of the Accounting Department
- Prepare financial statements and management reports including budgets and forecasts for the Company
- Work with team to establish and implement accounting and financial policies and procedures to ensure compliance with accounting standards and Group financial policies
- Support Group Finance in business and operational matters
- Credit control, tax and cash management
- Participate in system implementation and upgrade
- Liaise with external auditors, bankers, legal and tax advisors on all related matters

YOUR BACKGROUND

- Degree in Accountancy or equivalent professional qualification
- Minimum 3-5 years in professional audit and accounting experience
- Knowledge of international accounting/taxation/transfer pricing/cross-border transactions, financial modeling, SCALA/SAP and Microsoft desktop tools
- Hands-on experience in consolidation preparation and statutory reporting
- Strong analytical, communication and interpersonal skills
- Organized and meticulous
- Proficient in MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint
- Willingness and ability to perform detailed tasks
- Occasional overseas travel is required

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact us to learn more about your career opportunities with Grundfos. Please send your application with 2x2 ID picture and relevant enclosure to:

THE MANAGER
GRUNDFOS PUMPS (PHILIPPINES), INC.
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Fax No. : (02) 813-1548
E-Mail : jdavid@grundfos.com

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-Self-motivated, performance driven and able to work independently.

HR/ADMIN. STAFF
-Female, between 22-25 yrs. old
-College graduate of any business course
-Preferably w/ experience

ACCOUNTING STAFF
-Female, between 22-25 yrs old
-Accounting graduate
-Preferably w/ experience

Interested applicants may submit their resumes w/ recent photo thru email add, info@suretex.com.ph, or fax at 5212069.

LOOKING FOR
PROJECT ARCHITECT

- Responsibilities. Licensed Architect
- With at least 5 years experience in supervising housing or building construction
- With solid experience in high and/ medium cost housing projects.
- Must be familiar in detailing & coordination between other disciplines of works (such as structural/ mechanical/electrical)

Send Resumes to
JTB Development Co., Inc.
61 East Capitol Drive,
Bo. Kapitolyo,
Pasig City 1603
jtbdev@pldtdsl.net

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
BATANGAS & LAGUNA AREA

DEALER & ROVING SALESMAN

FOR PURIFIED TUBE ICE
Goldstar ICE PLANT
Tel. Nos. (02) 282-9030; 282-5870;282-4328
Cel. No. 0922-877-9030 (Heidi)

URGENTLY NEEDED

JANITORIAL MANAGER/SUPERVISOR

- Female, at least 30 years old, preferably with work experience in hospital and school.
- Salary, negotiable

Interested parties may send their resumé at 53-E Nicanor Ramirez Street, Brgy., Don Manuel, Quezon City or may fax one page comprehensive resumé to 712-32-09.

SALESPERSONS – URGENTLY
With previous sales experience for
Manila, Luzon, Visayas
Pleasing personality, previous sales experience preferred, college graduate, college level or High School graduate, female/male 25-40 y/o.

REGISTERED PHARMACIST
Female, 23-35 y/o, with 3 years work experience

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS
25-40 y/o, for repair of Medical Equipment, with 2 years experience

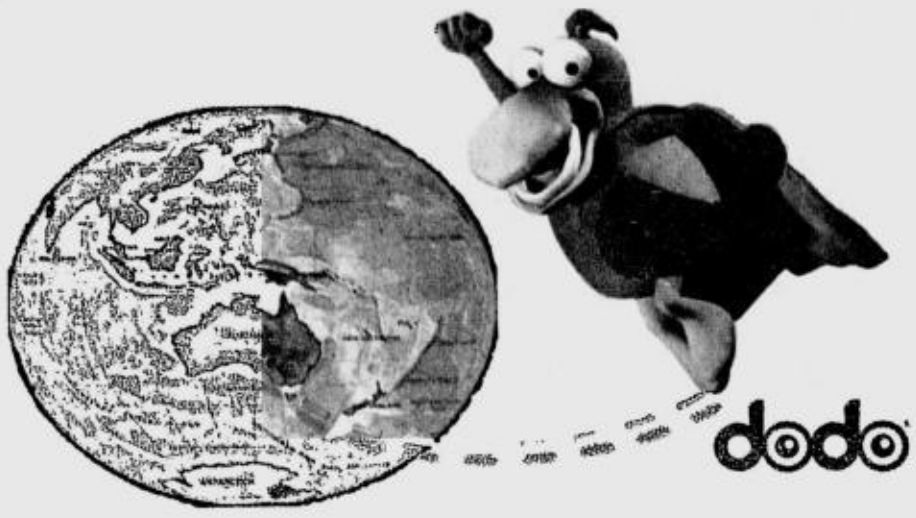
Applicants need to be in Manila for interview or...
Send resumé or apply in person at:
ASSOCIATED DRUGS, INC. – a 60 year-old established company
2222 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila
Between Quirino & Vito Cruz LRT Stations
afternoon only 1 to 5 pm, Monday to Friday or
E-mail: info@asdrug.com • Tel#525-3161

The bird has landed in Manila!

Yes, its true! dodo the leading Australian owned Telco company is here to provide promising career opportunities to Filipino professionals.

dodo offers above industry remuneration packages, attractive incentive schemes and performance based bonuses. The company also provides extensive benefits packages and insurance coverage.

Be part of the dodo team and experience what's **BIG !**



OPERATIONS
Customer Service Representatives
Technical Support Representatives
Outbound Sales Representatives
Winback Representatives

SUPPORT
Quality Assurance Manager
Workforce Manager
Recruitment Manager
Human Resources Officer
Team Leaders
Project Recruiter

Minimum Qualifications

At least one (1) year continuous call center experience handling an international account with exceptional English communication and comprehension skills

Send your application to:
careers.agent@acquireap.com for representative positions, or
careers.nonagent@acquireap.com for support positions

ACQUIRE

Better Life. Better People.

We are looking for a self-starter that is motivated, mature, and consistent for **IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT.**

WRITERS/WEBSITE COPYWRITERS

* At least a Bachelor's degree in any field
* Must be interested in **WRITING** as a career
* Excellent English grammar & writing skills
* Internet-savvy or adept in using Windows applications and/or Linux environment
* Knowledge of HTML, web-based applications & other tools is an advantage

FRESH GRADUATES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

WEBSITE COPYWRITERS
(HOME-BASED /OFF-SITE)

* At least a Bachelor's degree in ANY field.
* Must be able to produce HIGH QUANTITY and HIGH QUALITY original website copy daily.
* Proven ability to produce volume material
* Must understand instructions CLEARLY and QUICKLY and produce materials based on these specifications
* Must be able to meet strict daily deadlines
* Must have at least ONE YEAR professional experience writing website copy or web articles
* Minimum compensation is P20,000

Successful applicants must pass a writing exam.

Interested applicants may send in their resumé with picture to:
email to: **aj.gloriana@gmail.com**

PLEASE send a writing sample along with your resumé. **Applications without writing sample will be discarded.**

FreeLife Executive Team to Spread the Word about Himalayan Goji® Juice!

FreeLife CEO and Co-Founder Ray Faltinsky

Don't miss the chance to hear from the visionary whose passion and commitment to the FreeLife® mission and Himalayan Goji® Juice are unparalleled. Make plans now to attend one of these exciting events to be held in the Philippines!

Mike Zundel
Sr. Vice President of Training
16th of Nov. Built 2 Last. 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

17th of November
CEO Tour 8:30 am-6:00 pm
Philippine International Convention Center
CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd
Pasay City, Metro Manila

Rick Handel
Chief Product Officer

Ray Faltinsky

For more information please contact:

himalayan Goji juice

Goji Business Center
(632) 9107026-28
(632) 9104318

Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP 2) is funded with grant aid for Technical Assistance from the Australian Government and World Bank loan to the Philippine Government. The Technical Assistance Team is in need of

CONSULTANT
(6 months)

for the development of a 3-year Land Administration and Management (LAM) Master Plan for San Carlos City under the Innovation Support Fund. The candidate must have the following skills and experience:

- Knowledge in the whole planning exercise of the LGU
- An actual experience in plan preparation and project development/feasibility studies preparation
- Demonstrate capacity working with the different stakeholders in plan preparation/ project development
- Familiar with the Local Government Code and its related policies on local governance and autonomy
- Understand LAM issues and concerns
- Solid background on rural and urban development issues
- At least knowledgeable in IT applications on e-governance

The full Terms of Reference are available upon request.

Applicants may email their CV with cover letter and at least 2 references to palamp1@mindgate.net or fax to 9281176. **Deadline for Submission: 5:00 p.m., Friday 16 November 2007.**

LAND

Land Equity International contracts and manages the grant funding for Technical Assistance. Please log on to www.landequity.com.au, for detailed information about the company and to www.phil-lamp.org for the project information.

FT.com
FINANCIAL TIMES

Financial Times Manila is looking to recruit a full-time **Sub-Editor** to work on FT.com, the Financial Times website.

The successful applicant will be an all-round journalist with at least 5 years experience as an editor on newspapers, also preferably on magazines and working online. He/she must have a solid background editing and revising features, news and business stories. A sharp eye, great comprehension and grammar are essential. The ability to mix with the team and give feedback on their work is also important.

Qualified applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Friday, November 16, 2007, to **The HR & Administration Manager** at the following address:

Financial Times Philippines
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Incomplete applications will not be processed
Visit our website www.ft.com

Equilibrium Intertrade Corporation one of the country's leading distributor of coffee shop equipment and supplies is in need of the following personnel:

SALES/ACCOUNT OFFICERS

- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably in the field of HRA, HRM, Nutrition or Marketing.
- Male/Female, Age 21-25 years old
- Preferably a resident of Muntinlupa, San Pedro or nearby areas.
- Able to talk and relate to top and middle management people
- Good in spoken and written English
- Aggressive and willing to go on field work outside Metro Manila and other provinces.

ESPRESSO MACHINE SPECIALISTS

- Graduate or with at least 2 years technical course background from Don Bosco, Mapua, TIP, TUP
- Willing to be trained on the job and to travel to provinces
- Computer literate and fluent in English

Interested applicants may email or fax their resumés to
eqin@info.com.ph or eqcustcare@pldtdsl.net.
Fax no. (02) 862-3040
For more information please call (02) 862-3041 to 44.

Distributor of:
Torani. Rancilio MAURO

Cost Accountant

Female 25 to 35 years old
At least 2 years experience in Accounting
Computer Literate

Corporate Account Officer

Male or Female 22 to 30 years old
Graduate of any business course
Computer Literate

Send your RESUME to:

NEW SYNERGY GARMENTS INCORPORATED
454-8165
4 Golden St., Gloria I Subd., Tandang Sora, Quezon City
newsynergy@skydsl.com.ph *Look for Lanie*

Araneta Center

The **ARANETA GROUP OF COMPANIES,** a well-established group of companies in Quezon City engaged in the real estate, fast-food and entertainment business, is interested in hiring the following:

SENIOR CORPORATE AND CONTRACTS COUNSEL (1)
JUNIOR CORPORATE AND CONTRACTS COUNSEL (1)
LITIGATION COUNSELS (3)

with the following qualities and qualifications:

- reliable, hardworking and trustworthy
- with good research and writing skills
- graduated in the top 20% of their law graduating class
- with at least five (5) years of corporate and/or law firm experience for Senior Corporate and Contracts Counsel applicants
- with at least one (1) year of corporate and/or law firm experience for Junior Corporate and Contracts Counsel applicants
- with at least one (1) year litigation and/or law firm experience for Litigation Counsel applicants.

Together with their cover letter, applicants must submit their undergraduate and law transcript of records, bar exam grades, resumé with recent 2x2 picture and a list of references with their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses in a sealed brown envelope addressed to:

LEGAL RECRUITMENT
16th Floor, Aurora Tower
Araneta Center, Quezon City.

Professional growth, stability and an attractive compensation package await the successful applicants.

Make a Difference. YOU CAN.

Are YOU a born-again Christian?
Above reproach in integrity and honesty? Experienced in Holistic Child Development? Passionate to serve children in poverty? Then we strongly encourage you to explore employment opportunities with us as:

TRAINING AND SUPPORT SUPERVISOR

Manages the Partner Development Strategy to build and support capacity of Implementing Church Partners for Compassion's Holistic Child Development Programs.

Key Competency (KSA) Areas:
- Knowledge in Adult Learning Principles, Methods and Techniques
- Highly Advanced Facilitation, Verbal, Written and Presentation Skills
- Expertise in Training Design , Dev't and Evaluation
- Expertise in human growth and development, preferably in child development
- Excellent interpersonal and communications skills

Minimum Qualifications:
- University degree in Management/Leadership or Adult Education/ Training
- 5-8 years training or adult education experience
- 3 years experience in people management
- Experience in Church relations and ministries an advantage

HEALTH SPECIALIST/COORDINATOR

Supports the implementation of health initiatives as a subject matter expert, collaborator in curriculum development, and group-level trainer. Monitors and evaluates physical development outcomes, indicators and activities. Networks with professional counterparts and identifies possible resources and alliances to benefit the core programs models.

Key Competency (KSA) Areas:
- Knowledge in Public Health, Health Strategies and Research Methods
- Ability to effectively train non-medical personnel in basic health subjects and help lay leadership adapt best practices to the local context
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills

Minimum Qualifications:
- A masters degree or equivalent experience, Human Medicine, Nursing or Public Health
- 3 – 5 yrs experience in primary and preventative health care field.
- 5 years experience in research in cross-cultural studies of public health, human and child development, etc.

PARTNERSHIP FACILITATORS

Serves as Compassion's primary liaison with Church Partners; works closely with partners to pursue mutual vision and goals and achieve effective holistic child development.

Key Competency (KSA) Areas:
- Knowledge and experience in Project Management (Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation)
- Highly Advanced Facilitation, Verbal, Written and Presentation Skills
- Knowledge in Child Development and Child Issues related to Poverty
- Strong ability in building relationships and networking

Minimum Qualifications:
- University degree in field-related Social Sciences, Christian Ministry or Management.
- 3 years professional or intensive volunteer experience in managing Christian ministries
- Preferably Visayan or Cebuano Speaking; Willing to travel

If you satisfy the above requirements and desire to minister to children with us, kindly mail or email your letter of intent and resumé to:

The Human Resource Specialist
Compassion International – Philippine Office
2/F 99 E&L Bldg., Roces Avenue, QC 1103
Contact Numbers: (632) 373-3021 to 23 Fax (632) 410-6972
Email: **alamigo@ph.ci.org**

Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
in Jesus' name

Our Group of Companies,

which specializes in the acquisition, management and disposition of personal and real properties, is in need of the following:

SALES ADMINISTRATION HEAD

Graduate of any four-year business course
With minimum five (5) years work experience
With experience in customer service
Preferably with experience in real estate industry sales administration
Proficient in Excel, Word, Powerpoint and other computer applications

ASSOCIATE LEGAL COUNSEL

4-5 years experience in a reputable law firm
With core practice in litigation and corporation law
Strong background in contract-drafting and negotiations required
Preferably with experience in handling collection and extrajudicial foreclosure cases

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Graduate of any four-year business course from a reputable college or university
4-5 years experience in problem loan management, preferably with the banking industry
Equipped with knowledge of basic banking policies and guidelines, including basic legal processes relating to mortgage, trade, and collection
In-depth knowledge of financial and cash flow analysis
Proficient in Excel, Word, Powerpoint and other computer applications
Willing to travel and work long hours when necessary

CREDIT ANALYST

Graduate of statistics, econometrics, mathematics, finance, business, management, marketing or other numerate discipline, from a reputable college or university
Preferably with experience in any related professional area, such as consumer or mortgage banking
Knowledge in credit scorecard / scoring preferred
Experience in data analysis – credit risk management experience desirable
Willing and able to be flexible and adaptable to changing job requirements

LOANS ASSISTANT

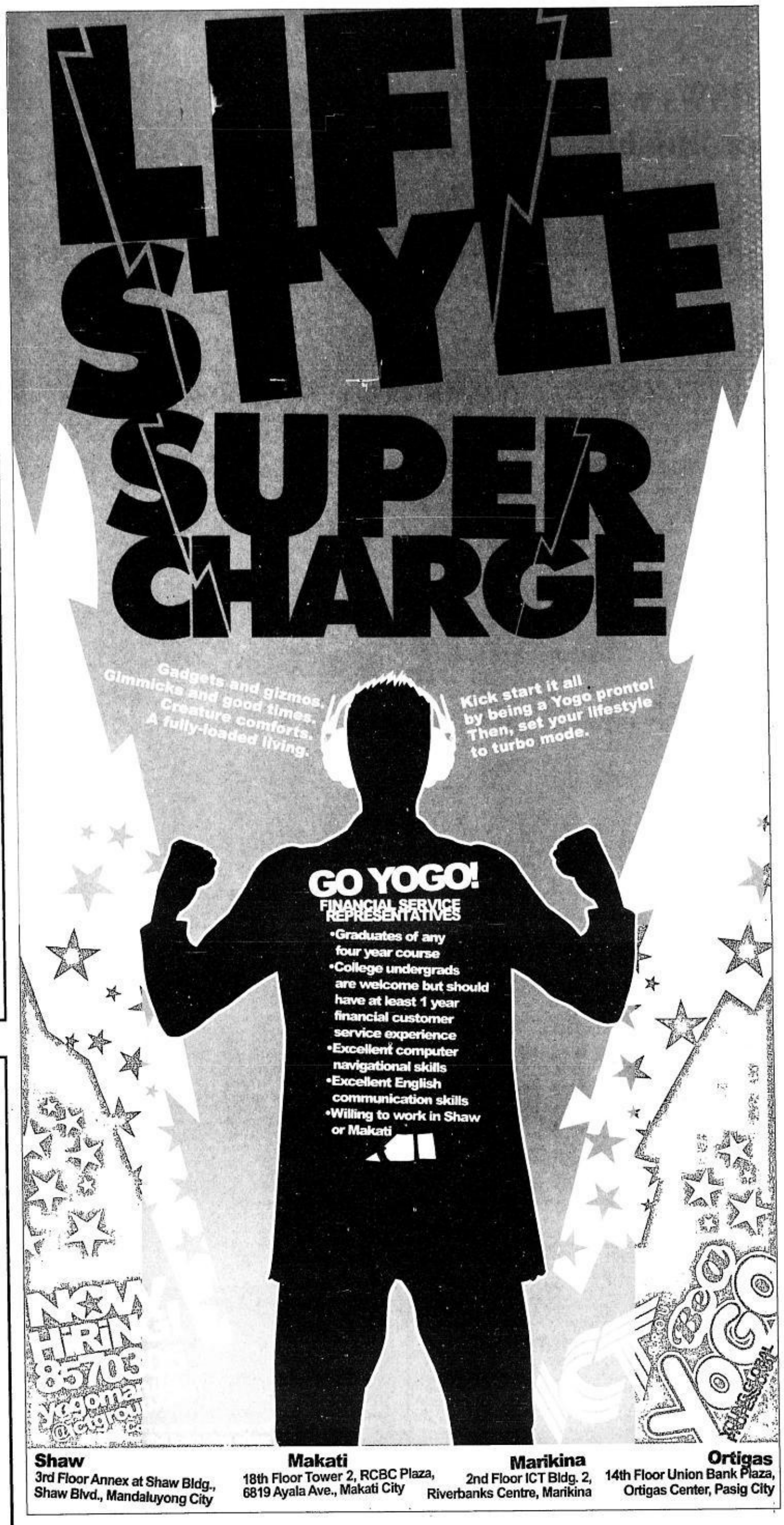
Graduate of any four-year business course from a reputable college or university
With at least 2 years experience in loans processing and documentation, preferably with a commercial or universal bank
Proficient in Excel, Word, Powerpoint and other computer applications
Knowledge of basic accounting is required

ADMIN & HR ASSISTANT

Graduate of any four-year business course from a reputable college or university
With minimum one year work experience
Proficient in Excel, Word, Powerpoint and other computer applications
Willing to travel and work long hours when necessary

Interested applicants can send their resume to:
hr.samsi@gmail.com
Deadline of Submission: November 19, 2007

JOB Market
Where you find the best.
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com



Title: **STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST POSITION IN SAUDI ARABIA**

This is your chance to work for the top UK education Agency. We value highly passionate, highly energetic, dedicated results-oriented individual who crave the opportunity to experience to work in this ever-growing region. Does this sound like you? Then there's definitely a place for you here in our firm.

Qualifications:
- Applicants must be MALE and have EXCELLENT English oral and written communication skills, preferably taken the TOEFL or IELTS test.
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Management or equivalent. Preferably, Masters degree holders, MBA.
- Preferably 3 to 5 years experience specializing in the same field student recruitment agency or education consultancy
- Must be computer literate, typing skills and good Internet knowledge
- Applicants must be willing to work FULL TIME in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (two year contract and options to extend)

Interested applicants must submit their Resumé/CV with photo and personal statement (strengths and why you would like to join the firm) to the Director (c/o: a2zmgt@gmail.com) or submit to:

VICTORIA SERVICES INC.
4/F, PANVIN BLDG.,
1247 TAAL STREET, ZOBEL ROXAS, MAKATI

Please note that only qualified applicants will be notified.

Interview invitation and status updates may be sent via email so please check your email regularly.

This ad is approved by POEA License Number: POEA416-LB-021604-R

Salientes-Gonzalez Associates, one of the top insurance agencies of the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife), which offers the most comprehensive life insurance products and financial services, URGENTLY needs the following:

TRAINER
MARKETING ASSISTANT
CUSTOMER REFERENCE SPECIALIST / TELEMARKETER
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- ✓ BS degree, preferably in Marketing or a related field
- ✓ Male or female, single, no more than 32 years old
- ✓ Very good verbal and written communication skills
- ✓ Proficient in Microsoft Office applications (preferably MS Excel)
- ✓ Enthusiastic, hardworking, pro-active and results-oriented

Apply personally at:
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
10th Floor Philamlife Salcedo Building
126 LP Leviste St., Salcedo Village
Makati City Tel. No. 7543955 / 7543960
Look for Charry or Tonette

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph.

JOBMARKETupdates

Text us your feedback: Inquirer WP name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

HSWs warned against agencies promising refund of placement fees

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment (Dole) warned household service workers (HSWs) bound for Hong Kong and other overseas destinations against recruitment agencies and individuals promising refund of placement fees.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said Filipino workers seeking employment as HSWs abroad should be wary of agencies and individuals who may charge them placement fees with a promise of a refund once they are already deployed.

Brion cited a report from Labor Attache Romy Salud of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (Polo) in Hong Kong showing that Filipino HSWs employed in the area had complained of refund of their placement fees. It was apparent that the HSWs paid placement fees to recruiters prior to their deployment to Hong Kong.

The Dole chief said these recruiters deceived the workers in view of the fact that they have been prohibited from exacting placement fees from HSWs since late last year.

He said the new policies issued by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) in December 2006 removed from the HSWs the payment of placement fees to their recruiters.

The Labor and Employment Secretary asked the HSWs to report immediately to the POEA those agencies and individuals who may charge them placement fees with a promise of a refund upon their deployment.

He said agencies found violating the policies on HSW deployment will be penalized in accordance with POEA rules and regulations.

POEA rules provide that agencies collecting placement fees from workers despite prohibitions will be penalized with cancellation of license and also refund of the fee collected from the worker.

JOBMARKET TRAINING NAVIGATOR

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	For Inquiries
Strategic Brand Mgmt	Nov. 12 - 16 6-9 p.m.	AIM Campus Makati City	EXCELL Marketing Group Tel. 893-2050/892-4011 loc 166 / Raul email: excell@aim.edu
45th From Selling to Managing	Nov. 14 & 15 8:30-5:30 p.m.	Mandarin Oriental Makati City	Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. Tel. 722-2318 / 727-7142 www.mansmith.net.info@mansmith.net
Information Security	Nov. 16	Mandarin Oriental	Training Works Tel. 845-1324 look for Jasmin jrunez@trainingnworks.com
Marketing Distribution Mgmt	Nov. 19 - 23 6-9 p.m.	AIM Campus Makati City	EXCELL Marketing Group Tel. 893-2050/892-4011 loc 166 / Raul email: excell@aim.edu
Effective Business Writing	Nov. 22 & 23	Penthouse, Makati Stock Exchange Bldg.	South East Asia Speakers & Trainers Bur. Tel. 881-2540 (Francis/Delia/Myrna) seawebit@surfshop.net.ph
Supervisory Leadership Development	Nov. 26 1-5 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria	Porter & Miles Tel. 638-7719/20 or 637-6884 / Mercy email: porterandmiles@yahoo.com
The Quest for Manufacturing Excellence	Nov. 26 - 28 8:30-5:30 p.m.	AIM Campus Makati City	EXCELL Marketing Group Tel. 893-2050/892-4011 loc 166 / Raul email: excell@aim.edu
Expanded Withholding Tax & Allowable Deductions	Nov. 27 - 29 8:30-5:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria	PowerMax Consulting Group Inc. Tel. 687-9014/687-5478 / Leni or text 0905-3354486
Presenting with Power	Dec. 6 & 7	Penthouse, Makati Stock Exchange Bldg.	South East Asia Speakers & Trainers Bur. Tel. 881-2540 (Francis/Delia/Myrna) seawebit@surfshop.net.ph
Positive Management for Supervisors	Dec. 6 & 7	Century Park Hotel P. Ocampo St., Manila	Positive Mngt Sem. Magnitude HRD Tel. 806-5743 email: magnitudehdr@yahoo.com

People Management Association of the Phils holds 2nd Luzon Summit

THE CHAPTERS COMMITTEE OF THE People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) invites everyone to the 2nd PMAP Luzon Summit to be held at the modernized Fontana Convention Center, Claro M. Recto Highway, Clark Special Economic Zone in Clark Field, Pampanga on Nov. 16-17, with the theme "People Managers: Delivering Business Success!" Province of Pampanga Governor Ed Panlilio as the keynote speaker will talk on Why Good Governance? PMAP past presidents, Barbie L. Atienza, FPM, Oscar L. Contreras , FPM, Solita M. Delantar, FPM, Rene M. Gener, FPM, lawyer Ranulfo P. Payos, FPM, will speak on Branding the HR Image, Competency-based Talent Acquisition, Compensation Pay and Benefits, The New HR Perspective: Breaking the Rules, and Conflict Management. Other confirmed speakers are 2007 PMAP vice president Enrique V.Abadesco, FPM who will share on Change Management and past president Ernesto G. Espinosa, FPM who with PMAP executive director Gerry A. Plana, FPM will present Work Life Balance in a learning in concert style. President Mark O. Go, FPM will give the opening message.

For inquiries and registration, contact PMAP professional staff at tel. nos. 726-1581/88/32 or email Toto Roldan (toto.roldan@pmap.org.ph).

Positive management seminar for supervisors

POSITIVE MANAGEMENT Seminar Magnitude Human Resource Development, a training organization specializing in people development, announced its upcoming seminar-workshop entitled "Positive Management for Supervisors" at the Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo Street, Manila, on Dec. 6 and 7.

Managers, entrepreneurs, and supervisors will benefit from this 2-day seminar/workshop, as they will learn how to handle their subordinates, motivate them to improve performance, and discipline them effectively.

They will have the opportunity to learn goal-setting; practice interpersonal skills, and improve their communications ability to deal with all day-to-day employee situations.

Topics for this seminar include Performance Improvement, Correcting Poor Work Habits, Positive Motivation and Positive Discipline. Rafael Z. Perfecto, a well-known speaker in human resource management will conduct the seminar.

Perfecto is a former director of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), a Fellow in Personnel Management (FPM), and currently a consultant for top multinational companies.

Rafael Z. Perfecto

To register, please call 0917-890-9595, Tel. 806-5743 or email magnitudehrd@yahoo.com. Early registration discount applies.

PNP–CSG awards Truth Verifier Systems

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE–Civil Security Group (PNP–CSG) awarded the Truth Verifier Systems Inc (TVSI), as the Private Detective Agency of the Year.

Said award was given during the CSG 27th Founding Anniversary, held on Oct. 22, at the PNP Parade Ground, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Truth Verifier Systems Inc's exemplary performance and countless contributions to the private detective industry, has made it adjudged.

The testimonials and commendations coming from the satisfied clienteles from top corporations, security agencies, manufacturing firms, accounting firms, law offices, banks and many more, who have availed of the detective and investigative works, have made also TVSI achieved this award.

TVSI has also been a recipient of various national and international awards and recognitions since it was established in 1966. It is recognized throughout the nation for its continuous dedications to help solve various cases – corporate fraud, civil and criminal crimes and other personal concerns.

TVSI's numerous national and international awards have truly proven to be the country's top private detective agency and one of the world's renowned private detective agencies.

Chief of Philippine National Police, police director general Avelino I. Razon, Jr. awards the Private Detective Agency of the Year to Truth Verifier Systems Inc through its president, Conrado G. Dumlao.

PhilHealth president is new Assa chair

LORNA O. FAJARDO, ACTING president and CEO of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) accepts the new chairmanship of the Asean Social Security Association (Assa) from Datuk Azlan Zainol, president of the Employees Provident Fund of Malaysia and outgoing Assa board chair.

The Assa is the umbrella organization of social security institutions from eight (8) countries in the Asia-Pacific region, namely, Brunei, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Among its primary objectives is to promote regional cooperation in all areas of social security activities. Also shown is Octavino Q. Esguerra, PhilHealth senior vice president and chief actuary.

Marche Christmas Bazaar

THE MARCHE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION together with its partners Philippine Women's University, Rising Phoenix Foundation, The National Council of Women of the Philippines, AIM Conference Center Manila, Rotary Club of Makati Urdaneta RI Disctrict 3830 and the following sponsors: Globe Telecom, Nestle Philippines, Del Monte Philippines, Philtown, Sunkist, United Laboratories' HAVit ALL, RJ100, 92.3 Joey xFM, Motorola Philippines and Samsung Electronics will holds its annual Christmas bazaar on Nov. 17 and 18 at the Makati Sports Club located at L.P. Leviste St. Salcedo Makati. The bazaar is bigger and better than before, it is time to dig out your shopping bags and plan on joining us for a day of shopping and good food.

There will be raffle tickets courtesy of Rising Phoenix Foundation. Proceeds from the bazaar will fund a variety of local projects geared towards the causes of the foundation and its partners. For further details please contact the Marche office at (632) 6375639, email: marchefdn@yahoo.com

RIBBON CUTTING

Stamford Drugstore opens its first branch located at Camarin, Caloocan City. Shown are (from left) lawyer Giovanni H. Melgar, president and CEO of Generica Drug Corp., the owner and operator of Stamford Drugstore, Merle T. Melgar, vice president for finance of Generica Drug Corp. and Dra. Cristina Javison, guest of honor who cuts the ribbon and the owner of Clinica Javison.

A large Australian company urgently needs Engineers with job descriptions below. It is most important that the candidate comes from a mechanical/construction background, either Gold or iron ore mineral processing. Candidates may e-mail their resumé to:

rpaladio_drillingadvisory@yahoo.com
or fax to (02) 952-0531

PROJECT ENGINEER

JOB PURPOSE

Reporting to the Manager, the Project Engineer provides engineering services and project management support, as well as advice, support and monitoring to other less-experienced staff involved on the project or contract. Responsibilities vary on the Division and the complexity of the project and whether the Engineer is based on or off site.

Qualifications:
- Tertiary qualifications with relevant on site industry experience in areas such as resources, maintenance, industrial services, engineering & construction
- Verbal & written communication skills
- Sound computer skills in Word, Excel, MS Project and Primavera
- Willing to work on a wide range of projects & tasks involving on & off site work and often irregular hours

Competencies:
- Innovative focus on business solutions
- Project tending assessment, planning and in some instances, design.
- Driving safety, ensuring client confidence
- Confirming project requirements, scope, schedule, budget, risks, costs, procurement and quality
- Managing the execution
- Organizing project labour
- Assessing & developing team performance
- Coaching & mentoring staff
- Managing customer relationships

PLANNING ENGINEER

JOB PURPOSE

Reporting to the Planning and Controls Manager, the Planning Engineer provides supports and assistance for the planning and Coordination of project works across the Group. This includes ensuring that the planning is safe, logical, practical and realistic; that adequate resources are available when required; and follow-up of physical progress reporting. The position is a member of Project Execution team upon the awarding of tenders:

Qualifications:
- Tertiary qualifications with relevant on site industry experience in areas such as resources, maintenance, industrial services, engineering & construction
- Verbal & written communication skills
- Sound computer skills in Word, Excel, MS Project and Primavera
- Willing to work on a wide range of projects & tasks involving on & off site work and often irregular hours

Competencies:
- Innovative focus on business solutions
- Project tending assessment, planning and in some instances, review of design.
- Driving and promoting safety that ensures client confidence
- Confirming project requirements, scope, schedule, budget, risks, costs, procurement and quality
- Assessing & developing team performance
- Coaching & mentoring staff
- Developing and managing customer relationships

ESTIMATOR

JOB PURPOSE

The Estimator provides support and assistance for the compilation of tenders and proposals for Engineering Construction Projects. This includes reviewing tender documents, visiting sites, liaising with clients to obtain information and calculating costs for the tender. The position is a member of the tendering team for major tendering processes and takes the lead role on bids if required.

Qualifications:
- Tertiary Qualifications in related area would be an advantage.
- Experience in a multidisciplinary environment – civil, structural, mechanical or pipeline fabrication and installation.
- Relevant on site industry experience (e.g. resources, engineering and construction industry).
- Estimating experience and knowledge of relevant construction norms and industry rates.

Competencies
- Project tendering and bid compilation
- Manage overall project scope, execution and quality
- Manage project schedule (time) and risk
- Prepare project budget to manage procurement and costs
- Establish the team and manage key customer relationships

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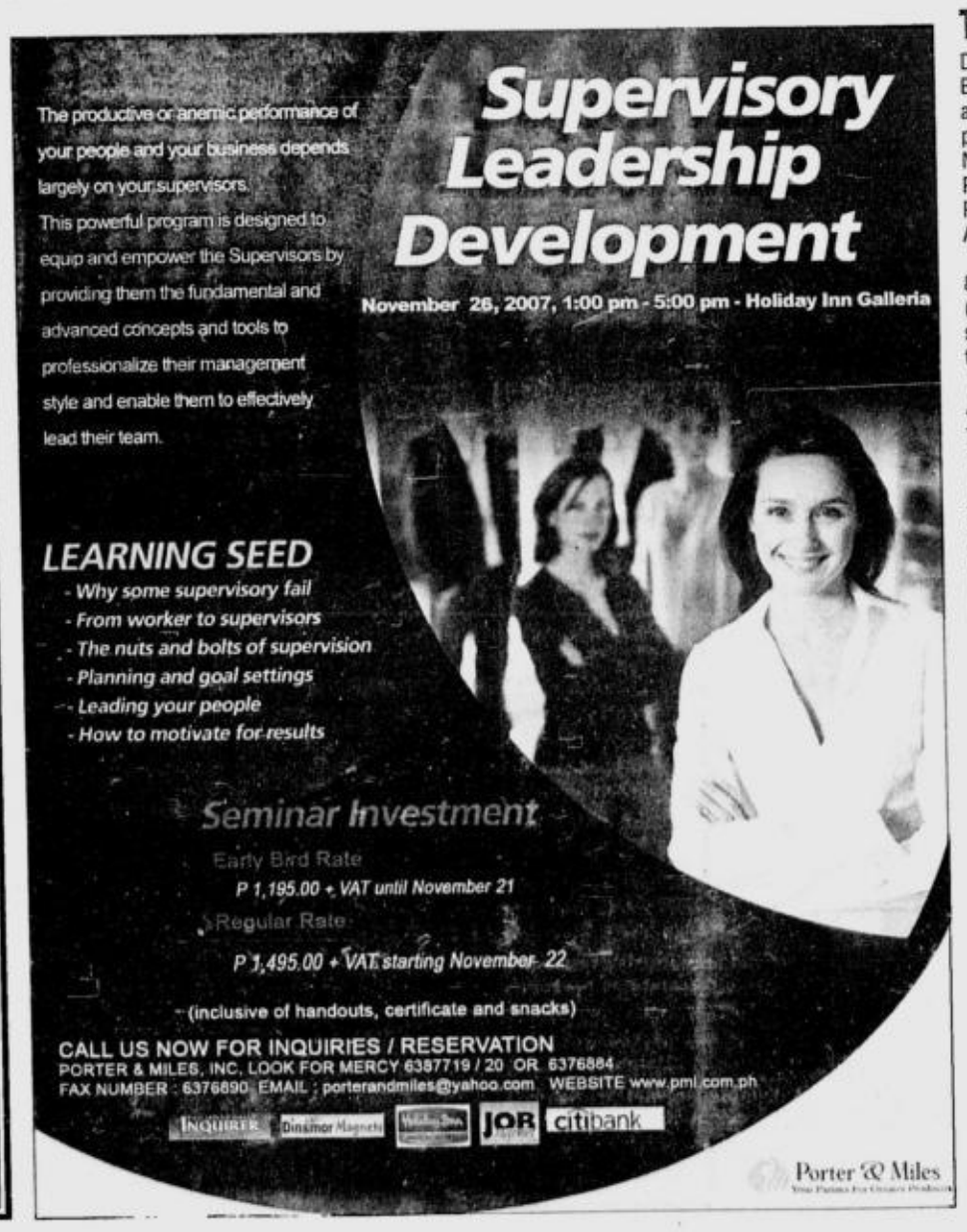

Three special programs set

DINA H. LOOMIS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH East Asia Speakers and Trainers Bureau, Inc announces the conduct of the three special programs for Effective Business Writing on Nov. 22-23; The Total Secretary on Dec. 4; and Presenting With Power on Dec. 6-7 at the Penthouse, Makati Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City.

For inquiries, please contact Telephone Nos: 881-2540; 881-7358; 882-5716; 883-2676 (Francis/ Delia/ Myrna/ Andrew) or email us at seawebit@surfshop.net.ph. Surprise gifts await the first 10 callers who will register and pay.

AIM's evening programs

THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT-Executive Education Lifelong Learning Center (AIM-EXCELL) has found a way to pursue its training schedule from 6 to 9 PM, Monday to Friday, AIM Campus, Makati City on the following topics: Strategic Brand Management, Nov. 12 to 16 and Marketing Distribution Management Nov. 19 to 23.

For inquries, contact the EXCELL Marketing Group, Raul, Yola, or Apple at tel. nos. 893 2050; 892 4011 loc. 166, 526, 228 or email excell@aim.edu.

Quest for excellence

THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT-Executive Education Lifelong Learning Center (AIM-EXCELL) will conduct a seminar on The Quest for Excellence on Nov. 26 to 28, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at AIM Campus, Makati City.

This intensive course will guide manufacturing managers in achieving new levels of business process excellence through proven systems and strategies that have brought breakthrough results in some of the leading companies in Asia. Participants will learn best practices on process management, strategic deployment, engaging people to conform rather than to comply.

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The high-paying jobs are no longer advertised

By Dan Magallanes
Contributor

DO YOU KNOW THAT THE MOST important and highest-paying jobs with multinational companies in the Philippines are already farmed out to headhunters?

I am sure your understanding is multinational companies have their own human resource departments who hire their executives and employees. The truth is, yes, multinational companies have their own human resource department. But decision-makers of companies have realized that "recruitment, selection and hiring" is not among their core competencies.

It is the specialization of a headhunter. Why bother performing a function that could lead to a wrong selection of candidates and at the same time risk one's position as a human resource manager.

In the Philippines, headhunting was born only in the '70s. Executive search began after World War II when some firms sought executives and professionals to fill jobs. Headhunters are different from employment agencies, which are basically clearing houses. Employment agencies screen job applicants who fill out applications and refer the applicants to employers who have listed jobs with the agency. In most cases, the employment agency charges the employee a fee.

Executive search recruiters or headhunters never charge the employee. They are paid by companies to go out and find the qualified candidates. This distinction between a search firm and an employment agency is still not clear to many people today. In fact when I started my headhunting business 18 years ago, executives and professionals thought I was selling guns or was a member of some primitive group when I introduced myself as a headhunter. Their next question is "How much will I take out from their salaries."

The mission of the executive search professional is reflected in the term "recruiter." The searcher not only locates the candidate but also helps to source/recruit that candidate. In the early days, this function was loudly denounced as "pirating." The word "headhunter" was associated with a person who ruthlessly stole employees from their employers. Today "headhunter" is a generic term for executive recruiter.

Some people have a hard time getting a job. Others are offered well-paying jobs without even looking. Some get more than three job offers a year. Not many of you can confidently say that your job is secure these days. Some executives are sure that in the event that they lose their jobs they will still be in demand.

These are the executives/professionals who stand out in their fields. They are the ones headhunters target. They won't remain without any offer because of their experience, talents and attitude. But there are those who are just as experienced and capable who are overlooked. The difference between the two is their visibility in the market. In these uncertain times, it pays to get noticed.

To get noticed, you have to make yourself visible. You have to participate actively in interest groups, industry associations and professional organizations.

As you become better known in the industry, chances are your name will be mentioned when a candidate is being sought.

Accept speaking engagements in the area of your expertise. Network at dinner or cocktail parties. Try to know the headhunters who specialize in your field in informal settings. Personal contact is always better than a phone call. And if a headhunter calls you up and you are not ready to move, be polite. Get his number. You may not need him today but you may need him tomorrow. Search firms do not advertise. As a headhunter, we target executives who are not looking for jobs.

(The author is CEO of Headhunter Manila, an executive search firm. He consults for blue-chip companies and lectures on moving your career up. He also coaches executives and professionals. Feedback at dan.hhmla@pacific.net.ph)

Gospel: Luke 20: 27, 34-38

Jesus said to them, "The children of this age marry and remarry; but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage."

Life after work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

REMINDERS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH ARE NOT WANTING IN OUR life but many seem to behave as if there were none of them. Perhaps work, too much work or even a pragmatic attitude towards work could be some reasons for such insensitivity. Many would be so burdened with work that they would have no more time to see other things particularly those which point to spiritual realities. Or, others may just look at work as the sole source for the satisfaction of their life's demands and necessities, and would make it almost their "god" for whom they would spend their waking hours and every ounce of their sweat and blood even to the point of sacrificing good relationships with their families and friends.

But, there is life after death even if there are some people who do not agree nor believe in it. There is also a God, who is much greater than work and what it can offer to anyone. And Jesus reminds us of these realities. He Himself is the Life after death and the God of the work. He gives everyone the chance and the grace to transform daily work and whatever one toils for in life into a means of attaining eternal life with Him.

Giving priority to one's faith in Jesus and his relationship with Him would not compete with one's job performance. It would even make him work better and make him see work more meaningfully, thus strengthening him to carry work's burdens and woes. Working with Jesus in one's mind would not distract concentration on the job; it would even give the worker better inspirations in doing his tasks. Seeing and approaching work and the workplace with faith would not only make them reminders of things to come but also a possible foretaste of eternal happiness. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Coupling and catechesis

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THE NEWSROOM (THAT'S WHAT JOURNALIST CALL THE EDITOrial room of a newspaper office) is not entirely devoid of "heaven talk." Sometimes they make references—albeit jokingly—to things like resurrection of the body, life after death, etc. I would notice that a most common reference pertains to philanderers: for instance, an after-work drinking buddy would tease a womanizing colleague thus, "*Pare, paano yan, pagdating ng* resurrection day, *sino magiging asawa mo* forever and ever?" (Hey, buddy, what will happen come resurrection day—who'll be your spouse forever and ever?)

Such jokes (about philandering) have become so commonplace that they are almost counted upon to enliven many office parties and programs. I'm reminded of them while reading the Gospel for today, and wonder if people who hear those jokes get to think deeply about the subject matter in their quiet moments. Why do we laugh at those jokes? Are we hung up about coupling or is it just bad catechesis? I tend to think it's both, and as always, hang-ups and misinformation combined lead us to trivialize significant matters. And that, unquestioned, leads to mediocrity.

But let's not nitpick now about hang-ups and mysteries; instead let's focus on what's more manageable in this life, here and now. How can we—in our workaday world—think, feel and act as the children of God that we are? There are more important things for God's children to worry about than partners for eternal life—like having real faith in ourselves and in God's love for us, and pondering the example of Jesus and striving to be more compassionate towards our coworkers. Amen? Amen. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

'Your boss may not be getting her 'daily stroke' quota'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Josie O. Santamaria

IS IT WRONG FOR ME TO want credit for what I have accomplished and be recognized that the accomplishment is mine? I'm 24 years old, female, single and a graduate of a state university. I've been working with my present company for the past two years, during which I have had three bosses, all of whom are section heads. This last one is really breaking my heart, to say the least. Not only does she not acknowledge the good reports that I do; she is quick to criticize whatever I do and finds fault with my work. It is as though I'm not doing anything good at all for she never says anything positive about what I do. I have never received any pat on the back from her. It's not that she doesn't know how to compliment people. She occasionally praises her favorites. I'm so demoralized and demotivated that I want to seek transfer to another section, or else quit my work and resign from my company if no lateral transfer is possible.

Ms Demotivated

There is nothing wrong with wanting a pat on the back and be given recognition, especially from significant others, including your boss. Affirmation, approval, recognition, etc. are emotional needs that are basic to survival. Dr. Virginia Satyr, a well-known American psychologist and therapist, writes that every human being needs to satisfy a "daily stroke quota," i.e., the minimum number of "strokes" we need daily for our psychological growth. These strokes are in the form of praise, smiles of approval, compliments, hugs and other physical and emotional touches from significant others. According to Dr. Satyr, every human being needs 10-15 strokes daily; they serve as the "psychological oxygen" to make us grow and glow.

If these emotional needs are not met, especially in the home, a child looks for them elsewhere. Attention deficit can be a powerful motivator throughout life. In fact, a child or an adult engages in attention-seeking behaviors (we usually refer to these as "KSP" or *kulang sa pansin* behavior) just to get attention; negative attention, such as criticism, is better than no attention at all.

When a person does not get their daily stroke quota, it is difficult for them to see and to satisfy these needs in others. This could be the case with your boss. Perhaps she does not get her daily stroke quota which is why she finds it difficult to affirm, approve and give recognition to others. So instead of feeling hurt the way you do, try to understand her from this perspective.

What pains you is your perception that she does pat the back of her favorites and you are not one of them. This may be news to you: among Filipino bosses, those who praise their employees for good performance are more the exceptions than the norm. This could be a cultural trait passed on from generation to generation. Children are not generally praised nor affirmed for fear that they become "swell headed" such as "*Baka lumaki ang ulo*," or "*Huwag mausog*!" if baby or child is praised for being beautiful. In our management and leadership seminars we are always told by most participants, who are mostly frontline supervisors and section heads, that their managers rarely affirm and give them recognition.

So that you will not experience unnecessary pain, you need to have some paradigm shifts. The first of these is that doing good work is your responsibility and you are paid to do it. Doing your work the best way you can is your duty. You get appraised for the quantity, quality and timeliness of your work. You get a high rating and a corresponding reward for exceeding standards of performance. Merit ratings or performances bonuses are already forms of recognition. If your boss praises you for what you accomplish, see this as a bonus.

The second paradigm shift is to see your boss as your No. 1 customer. To satisfy and delight her is the reason you have a job. The fact that she doesn't have you repeat your job, and that she submits it or uses it in her report to her own boss, shows that she accepts your work. Give yourself a pat on your back for this.

We cannot choose our bosses in our companies. We are given to them and we are there to accomplish the work for them. We have no control over the way they think, feel and act. Instead of waiting for your boss to praise you, ask her, "What do you think of my report, Ma'am?" If she criticizes and finds fault with it, accept her criticism with a "What is it you want me to improve and how do you want me to do it?" Listen to her attentively, then thank her for wanting you to improve. Say, for example, "Thank you, Ma'am, for wanting me to improve my work."

If she continues with her critical attitude, you can take this option: go to her and tell her something like this: "Ma'am, I am disappointed that you seem not to see anything good or positive in what I do. I wish you would also tell me what it is that I do right." Then listen to and wait for her response. Then thank her again. Perhaps she can learn from you if you take this positive attitude. Parents learn from their children; teachers from their students; bosses from their subordinates, etc. They become aware of their negative behaviors from the assertiveness or facial expression of those younger or lesser than they.

You must learn to reward yourself for doing an excellent job rather than have expectations of getting recognition from an outside source, such as that coming from your boss. Doing an excellent report or presentation should give you a feeling of achievement. Give yourself a pat on a back.

Feeling proud of yourself for doing an excellent report, feeling of accomplishment and pride are intrinsic rewards that make you self-motivated to continue the good work you are doing. Add to this a spiritual dimension: offer your work, the efforts you exert, the outputs of your work, and the lack of recognition from your boss, to God, who, after all, knows what you have done and what you do. God bless you.

(The author has a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of the Philippines. She and her husband Jorge manage Career Systems, Inc., a management consulting and human resources and organizational development company. Feedback at josantamaria@careersystems.com.ph.)

It matters to consumers what cause your company supports

LOS ANGELES—SOME US COMpanies are stepping up their involvement in social activities as research shows such issues are having an influence on what consumers buy and where they choose to work.

"The marketplace is demanding that companies share what they stand for, so companies are looking to align themselves around issues that are relevant to their business," said Jeff Terry, a vice president for Cone Inc., a Boston brand strategy and communications firm.

A survey of 330 business and private sector leaders released last month by the Business for Social Responsibility, a San Francisco nonprofit business association, found that 82 percent of respondents felt social responsibility would become a higher priority for companies in the next five years, driven by consumer behavior and concern about corporate reputations.

At a Habitat for Humanity project this week in Los Angeles, companies such as Home Depot Inc., Dow Chemical Co. and Whirlpool Corp. donated tools, insulation and other products to help build more than 30 homes.

"We believe that a part of our responsibility is to help society," said Brian Maynard, Whirlpool's director of corporate responsibility.

Whirlpool has donated $34 million to Habitat for Humanity globally in the last eight years. It gave 30 staffers time off with pay to participate in this week's Habitat build, an annual event hosted by former US President Jimmy Carter to build homes for lower-income families.

The appliance maker also funds its own housing project called Building Blocks, a yearly event during which it works with Habitat affiliates to construct homes in various US cities. Whirlpool built 10 homes in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2006, nine houses in Phoenix this year and will build in Dallas next year.

"If we help solve the issue of affordable housing ..., ultimately you have healthier families, other homes get built, communities become stronger and self-sustaining and people buy appliances," Maynard said.

Choice of workplace

This summer, Cone Inc. published a survey of more than 1,000 US residents that found that two-thirds of respondents considered a company's business practices or support for social issues when deciding what to buy.

The research found that 77 percent of Americans considered a company's commitment to social issues in choosing where to work, up from 48 percent in 2001. Sixty-six percent of respondents said social issues influenced decisions about which stocks or mutual funds to invest in, up from 40 percent six years ago.

"Multinational corporations are incorporating corporate citizenship into their business strategies and making it very much a part of how they serve their shareholders," said Bo Miller, corporate citizenship director for Dow Chemical, which contributed $500,000 in money and products to the Los Angeles Habitat project.

Terry, the Cone vice president, said companies with notable social responsibility activities included Avon Products Co., which sponsors walks to raise money for breast cancer, and McDonald's Corp., which aids underserved children through its global charities.

Reuters

Top careers for MBA graduates

By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor

AN MBA EDUCATION PROvides general management tools to equip the student with skills that will allow him to handle varied management concerns across industries. The training is usually geared towards issues that affect medium to large companies.

There are also industries that prefer MBA-schooled individuals due mainly to the complexity of the business or perhaps based on their tradition of hiring such persons. Following are some industries that normally hire MBA graduates:

Banking. Many banks have management training programs that precisely cater to the new MBA graduates. Some would visit the graduating students on leading campuses and hire them even before they finish school. The training program is usually well-structured and a potential manager can gleam what is in store for him in the near future.

Academe. This is one industry where higher education up to the Ph.D. level is highly prized. A master's degree is usually required of someone who is interested to teach at the college level. Likewise, salary is also based on academic credentials, among others.

Manufacturing. Many multinationals with large manufacturing facilities appreciate some MBA training. Traditional MBA schools usually follow the manufacturing model in their curriculum and thus, the education is highly compatible with the needs of a manufacturing firm.

Investment banking. MBA graduates with finance background are usually considered. The industry handles complex financial transactions and an MBA training helps provide a general orientation.

Consulting. Consulting management firms usually require individuals who can see and analyze the big picture. They tend to hire MBA graduates because the orientation in school is precisely that of helping students gain a broader knowledge about complex management issues.

While a MBA education is not the only factor considered in hiring, it is a fact that certain industries tend to hire more of such graduates. Ultimately, however, the new graduate still needs to show that aside from his MBA training, he also has the work background and the right character for the job.

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Male or Female, 22-27 yrs. old
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Project Manager
Male or Female, 22-30 yrs. old
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Systems Consultants
Male or Female, 22-27 yrs. old
With sales background
Graduate of BS IT, ComSci, Mngt., Mrkting., CoE

Lotus Notes Administrators
Male or Female, 22-30 yrs. old
With 2-3 yrs. experience in Lotus Notes

Management Trainees
Male or Female, 21-25 yrs old
Graduate of any Business Course
Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Marketing Officers
Male or Female, 23-28 yrs. old
Graduate of BS Marketing
With 2-3 yrs experience
Pref. in an HMO company

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Male or Female, graduate of any medical allied course

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Male or Female, with or without exp.

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Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Accounting Officers
Male or Female, 21-27 yrs. old
With at least 1 year related experience
CPA is an advantage

Internal Auditors
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CPA is an advantage

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Interested applicants are invited to send their resume with 2"x2" picture, and copy of transcript of records to the **Human Resources Dept., Medtecs International Corp. Ltd., 7th Floor Peninsula Court, 8735 Paseo de Roxas corner Makati Avenue, Makati City,** or send it thru email: jflores@unet.net.ph

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Lycopodium (PHILIPPINES) LTD

INTERNATIONAL MINING ENGINEERING COMPANY requires

SENIOR DESIGN ENGINEERS
(MECHANICAL / STRUCTURAL / CIVIL)

Minimum 5 years experience in all levels of project design, fluent in structural analysis; design load calculations; controlling and reporting equipment lists, equipment sizing and scheduling etc. Mining design and construction experience an advantage.

LEAD ELECTRICAL DESIGN DRAFTSPERSON

Minimum 5 years at senior electrical design drafting experience. Must be skilled in the use of Microstation and / or Autocad.
Mining experience an advantage.

STRUCTURAL AND MECHANICAL DESIGN DRAFTSPERSON

Minimum 5 years at structural and mechanical design drafting experience required. Must be skilled in the use of Microstation and / or Autocad. Mining experience an advantage. Only experienced draftsperson will be considered.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified personnel for the above positions for the Makati-based office. All applicants must be fluent in written and oral English.

Applications for the positions should include details of education and previous work experience and professional references.

Salary package and benefits are competitive. Please send all applications to **manila@lycopodium.com.au** referring to the titles above.

Applications must be received by COB on Friday, 16th November 2007.

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

RURAL MICRO ENTERPRISE PROMOTION PROGRAMME

IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

RuMEPP's development goal is *rural poverty reduction through increased economic development, job creation and rural incomes for 200,000 poor rural households.* Central to achieving this goal, RuMEPP shall facilitate the increase *of new and existing rural micro enterprises expanding and operating profitably and sustainably.*

The programme, which is implemented by the DTI under the assistance of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), will run for 7 years. Its Programme Management Unit (PMU) is in charge of facilitating the day-to-day management and coordination of all programme activities.

THE DTI-IFAD RUMEPP is in search of

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST

Core Requisites

- Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Social Sciences, Development Management or related field
- Solid understanding of rural livelihood program development and management with focus on participatory processes and gender issues
- Familiarity with microfinance and micro enterprise development
- At least 5 years experience in monitoring and evaluation with proven ability on
  - Results-based management approach and other strategic planning approaches
  - Monitoring and Evaluation system design, methods, and approaches
  - Conduct/facilitation of M and E learning-oriented sessions for multiple stakeholders;
  - Information analysis and report writing
- Good interpersonal skills, especially in relating with people's organizations with various cultural backgrounds
- Highly analytical with good networking and negotiation skills
- Excellent oral presentation and written communication skills
- Proficient IT skills
- With unimpaired integrity
- Fit to undertake regular field visit and interact with different stakeholders

General Scope of the Job

The **M&E SPECIALIST** shall be responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation of programme activities, coordinating studies and surveys, preparation of reports, programme statistics/information, and assisting the Programme Manager in programme planning and public relations. He/she shall also serve as the Secretary of the Programme Steering Committee.

Qualified applicants will undergo assessment process

Submit comprehensive application/resumé with 2x 2 ID picture and copy of transcript of records on or before 16 November 2007 to
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City, Philippines
email: hrds@dti.gov.ph or rumepp@gmail.com

CAREER OPPORTUNITY IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

In line with our expansion plans, leading printer and publisher in Brunei seeks highly creative, motivated and resourceful individuals to join our design team for the posts of:

GRAPHIC SUPERVISOR

Job responsibilities include:
- Graphic design and photography
- Work assignment
- Implementing and monitoring deadlines
- Client presentations
- Sourcing for new media ideas

The ideal candidate must:
- Have at least 3 years relevant experience
- Be creative and able to think out of the box
- Have good interpersonal skill and be an effective leader
- Be easy-going and able to multi-task
- Be able to work under tight deadlines and extra hours when required
- Have a Bachelor's Degree / Diploma, preferably in the field of Graphic Design, Multimedia or Fine Arts
- Be competent in Indesign, Photoshop, Quark Express, Illustrator and Freehand

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Job responsibilities include:
- Graphic design and photography
- Client presentations
- Sourcing for new media ideas

The ideal candidate must:
- Have at least one year relevant experience
- Have good communication skills
- Be easy-going and able to multi-task
- Be able to work under tight deadlines and extra hours when required
- Be a team player
- Have a Bachelor's Degree / Diploma, preferably in the field of Graphic Design, Multimedia or Fine Arts
- Be competent in Indesign, Photoshop, Quark Express, Illustrator and Freehand

Those with experience working in an advertising agency will have an added advantage. If you meet our requirements and are ready for a challenge, please write, fax or email to us, stating full personal and career details. Include a design sample and any published works; present and expected salary; contact numbers and a passport size (non-returnable) photograph, attention to:

The Group Human Resource Department
Brunei Press Sdn Bhd
P. O. Box 85
Seri Complex BA1779
Negara Brunei Darussalam
Fax: +673 2 452152
Email: qaf4@brunet.bn

Closing Date: 30 November 2007

Remuneration package varies with experience. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

BRUNEI PRESS SDN BHD
www.bruneipress.com.bn

Hechanova & Co., Inc, a leading intellectual property consulting firm

Is looking for:

➢ Associate Lawyers
Male/Female with pleasing personality, Graduate of Bachelor of Laws from a reputable university with good scholastic records, passed the Bar, Excellent written and oral communications proficiency, Can work under pressure with formidable knowledge in analysis.

➢ Legal Assistants/Paralegals
Male/Female with pleasing personality, Graduate of Bachelor of Laws, preferably with undergraduate Chemical, Mechanical Engineering course from a reputable university with good scholastic records, Good written and oral communications proficiency, Can work under pressure with formidable knowledge in analysis, Flexible, attentive, resourceful, fast learner and highly motivated, proficient in MS Office, Fresh graduates are welcome.

➢ Executive Assistant/Secretary
Female, with pleasing personality, Graduate of any 4 year course from a reputable university with good scholastic records, Excellent written and oral communications proficiency, Excellent organizational skills and can be expected to function in optimum capacity with very minimal supervision, Willing to multi-task, Can work under pressure and knows the value of confidentiality, Flexible, attentive, resourceful, fast learner and highly motivated, proficient in MS Office; Fresh graduates are welcome.

➢ Technical Assistants
Male/Female with pleasing personality, Graduate of computer related course and should have solid technical background on (computer installation, networking, repairing, maintenance, upgrade, assembly, software loading, hardware troubleshooting), ability to read and understand technical terms and product specification, proficient in MS Office, Fresh graduates are welcome

➢ Accounting Staff
Female, not more than 30 years old with pleasing personality, with a Bachelor Degree in Accounting, Proficient in MS Office Applications, Good communication skills, Results oriented and hardworking. Fresh graduates are welcome

Email your resumé with recent picture and transcript of records at: **mail@hechanova.com.ph** or mail to:

Hechanova & Co., Inc.
Unit 2 Ground Floor, Chemphil Bldg., 851 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City

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WE NEED YOU!
IT Officer / Admin. Assist.
Purchasing Officer / Treasury Assistant

Male, 20-30 yrs. old
1 yr. exp. as an IT officer and proficient in ERP
Can do admin. services and start immediately.

All interested applicants may submit or send their application letters or resumés to:
jobs@concut.com.ph or fax to: 8130354, attention to Ms. Aloysius Oliquino

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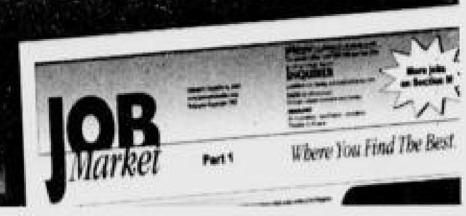

Every Sunday with the INQUIRER

Start the New Year, with a New Career.
See yourself grow in the next great software company!

Build a successful career at NetSuite, where opportunities for growth know no boundaries...

The future of Accounting is in technology... Join our driven Customer Support Teams.

Payroll Support Specialists

Responsibilities

•Maintain broad and technical knowledge of product and services.
•Greet customers in a courteous, friendly, and professional manner using agreed upon procedures.
•Listen attentively to customer needs and concerns; demonstrate empathy.
•Clarify customer requirements; probe for and confirm understanding of requirements or problem.
•Meet customer requirements through first contact resolution. Minimize escalation to Tier-II support.
•Confirm customer understanding of the solution and provide additional customer education as needed.
•Prepare complete and accurate work and update customer file.
•Communicate effectively with individuals/teams in the program to ensure high quality and timely expedition of customer requests.
•Effectively transfer misdirected customer requests to an appropriate party.
•Contribute ideas to resolve problems to better serve the customer and/or improve productivity.
•Participate in activities designed to improve customer satisfaction and business performance.
•Occasionally use decision-support tools to answer questions.
•Solve problems that may be unstructured and that may require reliance on conceptual thinking.
•Offer solutions to issues that are often non-standard/non-routine and require some clarification.

Qualifications

•Experience on end to end Payroll process, preferably US Payroll.
•Basic knowledge on **US Payroll** Taxes and 401K.
•Direct experience and knowledge of general accounting principles.
•Knowledge of Payroll or ERP systems is a must.
•Experience in a call center (technical/customer) organization providing telephone or email support or relative experience in a BPO is a plus.
•Knowledge of Internet, browsers and web navigation is desirable.
•Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
•Strong personality, highly enthusiastic and service oriented individual
•Troubleshooting skills.

Support Specialists (Web-ecommerce/CRM)

Responsibilities

• Develop and maintain up-to-date knowledge of our constantly expanding and evolving set of products and services through internal training and self-training
• Utilize the available resources and tools to provide high quality Tier 1 technical support over the phone and via email for designated areas of the product
• Document the work done in our internal case/issue management system using predefined procedures
• Maintain high customer satisfaction through the use of proper phone etiquette, active listening and customer service skills
• Work in a dynamic team environment to ensure customer requests are re-routed accurately and efficiently to the right resource.
• Communicate customer-reported issues with our Quality Assurance and Development teams using established guidelines.
• Design creative solutions to non-standard problems and modify existing solutions to resolve non-routine problems.

Qualifications

• Solid experience in developing or troubleshooting web services using major platform like Java /. NET or solid experience with Javascript and HTML is a must
• Experience with Web Design, Web Development and general Internet Infrastructure is strongly recommended.
• Experience with any ASP/SaaS software or any ERP, CRM and Web/E-Commerce is a definite plus
• A minimum of 2 years of call center (technical / customer) organization providing email and telephone support is required.
• Direct experience and knowledge of general accounting principles is recommended.
• Excellent written and verbal communication skills
• Highly enthusiastic, positive minded, service oriented individual.
• Demonstrated troubleshooting skills. Superb analytical and critical thinking skills
• Ability to think "outside-the-box"

Candidates must be willing to work in graveyard shifts, weekends and/or holidays.

Bilingual Support Specialists – English + Nihonggo, Mandarin or Spanish

business tools and solutions that matter most to global customers...

Work alongside our highly skilled and professional Technical Teams.

Implementation Consultants

Responsibilities

•Responsible for managing clients in post sale environments i.e. the delivery of implementation services for customers of NetSuite. Working with NetSuite Sales and the balance of the Professional Services Team, this position will quickly assess customer implementation needs, develop innovative plans to solve their problems, and implement these plans to the customer's satisfaction.
•The successful candidate must have a passion for business and the technologies that run it, as well as, advanced analytical problem solving acumen. Working with aggressive timelines and a full project portfolio is required.
•Work will be done over the phone with customers across North America and on **North American business working hours.**

Qualifications

•Candidates for the Implementation Consultant role should have many of the following qualifications:
•2 to 5 years experience in systems applications consulting, either internally via an IT organization or externally with a consulting firm or software provider.
•Solid experience in change management and Business Process Mapping in support and / or in conjunction with a major IS initiative.
•Excellent understanding of common industry standard business practices as related to ERP, CRM and E-commerce.
•Excellent understanding of common industry standard business practices as related to Accounting (Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, General Ledger, Invoicing), Sales Force Management (Opportunity, Proposal, Sales Orders, Forecasting, territory management and Quotas), Inventory Management (Purchasing and Fulfillment) as well as support (Cases Management and Territory Management).
•Exposure to less ubiquitous, more esoteric business practices such as Accounting (Payroll, Expense Tracking, Multi-currency, and commissions), Sales Force Automation (Returns, Team Selling), Marketing Campaigns and Web presence (Net or E-Commerce, Shopping carts, Website layout).
•Successful candidates should have demonstrated experience in translating customer business requirements into workable world class business solutions, either as a software solution or a re-engineering initiative.
•Candidates should have solid client management skills and be able to work with customers to execute on an implementation plan.
•Experience with software in an ASP environment is a plus as is any experience with financial accounting, customer management, and sales force automation software. Previous consulting experience with the following applications is a solid predictor of success as a PSM at NetSuite: QuickBooks, Great Plains, SalesForce.com, Upshot, ACT, Goldmine, MAS 90, Siebel, Oracle, SAP, PeopleSoft, JD Edwards.
•Working knowledge of and experience using XML, JavaScript, HTML, Crystal and SQL is desirable.
•Experience with designing and writing html, Java and Java script for an e-commerce website.

Sr. NT System Administrator

Responsibilities

•The position that we need to fill is for a full time Sr. NT System Administrator. This person will be responsible for providing desktop and server support primarily to NetSuite's Philippines employees and occasionally to NetSuite employees located in the Pacific Rim. This position requires **24/7 availability.** The most critical aspect of this position is the ability to complete IT projects and tasks independently.
•Required knowledge, skills, and abilities

Qualifications

•The candidate will need, at a minimum, 3 years experience as a system administrator, working in a Microsoft Windows environment.
•Proficient in, Windows 2000 and 2003 Server technology.
•Knowledge of Exchange e-mail administration, Windows servers, VPN, and tape back-up technology is also critical. Experience in setting up an Exchange email server from start to finish is a plus.
•Proficient in Microsoft Active Directory.
•Familiarity with various back-up software packages (Veritas preferred).
•MCSE NT/2000/2003 preferred.
•Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships at all levels.
•This person will need to be located within a 45 mile radius of the NetSuite office in the Philippines.
•Examples of work
  •Plans, documents, and communicates all changes to server software minimizing customer disruption.
  •Installs, tests, and implements server operating system upgrades and enhancements.
  •Responds to emergency calls relating to server and desktop performance, diagnosis of problems, and resolving issues.
  •Maintains data integrity and security of desktop and server software.
  •Create system images for desktops, laptops, and servers.
  •Build desktop and laptops systems from an image.
  •Ability to diagnose and resolve desktop and mobile computing issues.
  •Monitor Error logs and provide routine maintenance to mission critical servers.
  •Research and recommend security solution for desktop computers and servers.
  •Procure office computers and computer related equipment.
  •Evaluate, install, debug, audit, maintain, and document Windows server farms.
  •Be a part of an on call rotation that does **24x7** monitoring, and be accessible via pager and/or cell phone.
  •Take training courses that align with corporate objectives to bridge skill gaps and learn new relevant technologies.
  •Ability to express oneself clearly and communicate well, both written and verbally, within a passionate technical team.
•**Technical Musts:** Windows NT/2000/2003 architecture, implementation, monitoring, troubleshooting Active Directory Administration Exchange Server AdministrationOS Protocols/Applications (DNS, DHCP)Telecom Experience;
•**Soft Musts:** Excellent Communication, Prioritization, Teamwork, Working Independently

Data Migration Consultants

Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of this position is to assist customers with the migration of data from enterprise systems into NetSuite. Day to day activities will involve providing customers advice on the data migration process, rationalizing data from multiple enterprise systems and extracting and merging the data into NetSuite.

Qualifications

•A minimum of 2 years work experience
•An undergraduate degree in mathematics, computer science or engineering is preferred but a liberal arts degree followed by at least 2 years training in Computer Technologies (an NIIT type course) is sufficient.
•Note: This is not a programming position. There may be occasional programming work but the bulk of the work is in data migration using NetSuite's existing tools.
•Strong communication skills
•Experience with the data migration process (extraction, transformation and loading) and a good understanding of xml and csv file formats.
•At least one year programming experience with either C# or VB.Net or Java
•Experience with the data architecture and data formats of popular SMB applications (QB, Sage, Great Plains, Goldmine and sfdc.com) is desirable but not mandatory.

For Practice Manager (Implementation Team) and Team Lead (Data Migration Team) – strong leadership skills are required; at least 7 and 5 years hands on supervisory experience, respectively.

Systems & Tools Engineer (1)
Systems & Compliance Manager* (1)

Responsibilities

•Support key internal customers with insight, custom structures, code, searches and reports that enhance internal workflows & productivity and enforce internal controls. The ideal candidate will be passionate about finding creative ways to improve employee performance, eliminate/reduce data entry errors and give better visibility to data and trends via the existing capabilities in Netsuite, and via ad-on tools (where necessary). Additionally, the Systems & Tools Manager will lead and supervise the off-shore team of Systems & Tools Engineers.
•Job entails supervisor/management responsibilities as well as scripting and application/tools development for NSCorp projects, including for test-drive, demo accounts and Sales proof of concepts, specifically:
•Lead local team of Systems & Tools Engineers
  •Client-side JavaScript
  •Server-side JavaScript
  •Tools and Application development in Java and Web Services
  •Identifying customer requirements and development of systems that support productivity improvements and enforce corporate policies and procedures
  •Customization of forms, fields, online forms and custom records
  •Support internal and external audit activities

Qualifications

Leadership / Employee Development*
  • Aligns individual and company objectives; develops a cohesive team and delegates effectively; inspires respect and confidence; recognizes and coaches effectively; promotes employee development and training; hires high performers and supports diversity; provides a safe workplace.
Execution / Productivity
  • Manages workload and priorities to expectations; overcomes obstacles; demonstrates effective planning; meets deadlines; develops and follows work procedures; flexible to changing needs.
Customer Focus / Quality
  • Understands who internal/external customers are and meets expectations; work is accurate and of high quality; makes continuous process improvements; owns and acts on quality problems.
Communication / Teamwork
  • Communicates professionally, accurately and punctually, both verbally and in writing; exchanges information and ideas with others; accepts feedback with open mind; manages conflict constructively; participate in cross-functional team projects and roles.
Decision Making/Problem Solving
  • Recognizes problems and responds; resourceful; open-mindedness; ability to translate problems into practical solutions; ability to separate objective/subjective criteria; can make difficult decisions and communicates them.
Languages: JavaScript, JAVA, HTML, DHTML, XML, SOAP, SQL
Databases: Oracle
Systems: Windows 2000/XP
Applications: Microsoft Excel, Microsoft.NET Visual Studio

NETSUITE

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Junior INQUIRER

E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 85

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Win this Magic Answer Ball and cool memo pad from Disney's 'Enchanted'! Page 4

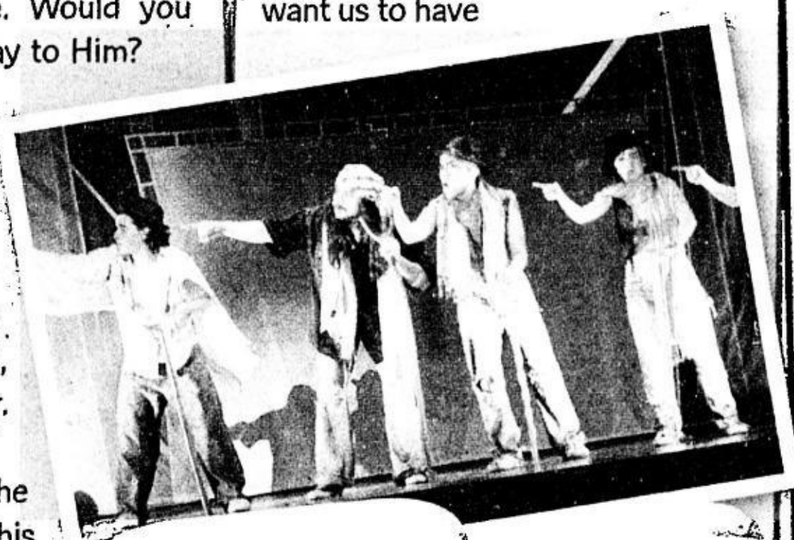
What's in a Name?

By Ruth L. Navarra

IMAGINE KNOWING GOD'S e-mail address or instant message handle. Would you know what to say to Him?

In Trumpets' musical production "First Name," a boy named Eric talks directly to God with the use of an old, unplugged computer.

Eric discovers the computer inside his school's storage room where he hides to escape an angry teacher. This is when his journey through the bible begins. The musical will take the audience from the time of Adam and Eve until the crucifixion of Christ.



the prophets

Adam and Eve

"Our archives were off-limits. Our director Freddie Santos didn't want us to have a pre-conceived idea of how our characters were previously played," says JC Gotinga, a cast member.

Director Freddie says that the restaging of "First Name" has the young audience in mind. They looked for jokes, dance moves and singing styles that would appeal to the young theater-goers.

Noah and wife

"We retained the songs and the intent but the story structure is different. The original play had a woman asking questions. Our version revolves around a boy," JC says.

All the songs are proudly produced by local artists. Freddie Santos wrote the lyrics and the original music was written by big names like Gary Valenciano and Ogie Alcasid.

The ensemble cast includes PJ Valerio, Kevin Concepcion, Fame Flores, Nelsito Gomez Marin and Kakki Teodoro of "High School Musical On Stage". Also in the cast are Ring Antonio, Khalil Kaimo, Eric Mercado, Butch Montejo, Andrei Pamintuan and Maita Ponce.

"First Name" will be staged until Dec. 7 at the Centerstage, Mall of Asia. For schedules and tickets call 631-7252 and 635-4478.

"First Name" was originally staged 20 years ago by the people who created the theater group Trumpets. Yet despite the material's age, none of the present cast was able to study the original play before and during their own rehearsals.

An interpretation of the tower of Babel

WELCOME TO MY CORRAL!

This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings about anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

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2005 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee Hall of Fame

Journal

My Bridge

By Hero Go
13 years old, Sta. Cruz, Manila

TEACHERS ARE THOSE WHO USE THEMSELVES as bridges on which they invite their students to cross. They help their students cross and encourage them to create bridges of their own.

Most may detest Math, but with Mr. Capili as our bridge and mentor, Math will never be the same again. I was never that inspired in Math until I had him as my teacher. "You can do it," he always reminds everyone. He may be as strict as Snape from "Harry Potter," but he can also be as funny as Mickey Mouse. He tickles everyone's funny bones with jokes whenever he feels that the lesson is becoming dull.

Mr. Capili never fails to give his students lessons that they can apply in their daily lives. He said, "In Math, we practice patience; we try to answer long and quite deceiving questions in order to arrive at the moment when we have the feeling of inner joy that we finally arrived at the answer. The same goes for our life; we really need to undergo difficulties and trials before we can reach success."

My teacher made my Math experience truly worthwhile, because he taught me not only Math, but also the secret of living life.

Letter

HAN JI!

I was happy when I read your issue last Sunday, about the newest super heroes, the Eco Defenders. The Eco Defenders inspire me because of their powers and costumes.

I like Waste Buster. She is so cute and she has a nice dress. With her paintbrush, she can help sweep the floor.

I guess I can be an Eco Defender too because I can help my mom clean the house.

Thanks for sharing this with us!

—Elaine I. Reyes
11 years old
Guagua, Pampanga

We hope you do become an Eco Defender too, Elaine! No one is too young to help the environment.

—JI Staff

YOU WIN!

Elaine gets a Itsy Bitsy Bratz Babyz Mini Playset—Vinessa's Pop-eroni Pizza. Itsy Bitsy Bratz are the smallest version of Bratz Babyz.

Come and visit the Bratz Month long exhibit at KidzStation Rockwell For details please call 3719978 loc. 102. Bratz Itsy Bitsy is distributed by Ban Kee Trading.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ERAP BEING PARDONED?

Think Out Loud!

I think it's a good idea because he is nearly dying and his mom needs him by his side.—**Iana Gwen G. Ringor**, 13, Baguio City

What's the use of the long investigation when he got away easily? I just wish they let him suffer in prison even for just a while. —**Christine Jane R. De Guzman**, 12, Baguio City

The guilty verdict was pointless because he didn't serve his time in prison.—**Jemima A. Sawey**, 13, Baguio City

It's okay because a lot of people are already angry at GMA. Besides, Erap is already sorry for what he did.—**Lance S. Garcia**, 13, Baguio City

I feel sorry for Erap because he's old and he regrets his mistakes. —**Jason M. Motin**, 11, Baguio City

Erap is sorry for what he did and he already spent six and a half years in house arrest. I think he has suffered enough. —**Reymond B. Aragon**, 12, Baguio City

Name that Champ!

Congratulations to the winners of our "Name that champ!" promo! The ex-wrestler who appears in "The Game Plan" is Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

The girls will get a shoe bag and a sports towel and the boys will get a water bottle and a sports towel, all courtesy of Walt Disney.

Jarvey James Huang, 12
Caloocan City

Cholo Sediaren, 11
Cubao, Quezon City

Antoni Martiniano A. Acuzar, 12
Bauan, Batangas

Emmy Jill J. Funa, 10
Davao City

Marinela D. Atienza, 12
Las Pinas City

Tanya Razote, 12
Antipolo City

Niko Philippe D. Aycocho, 10
Makati City

Dominic Johan A. de los Reyes, 8
Marikina City

Kim Alison Beatima, 8
Pasay City

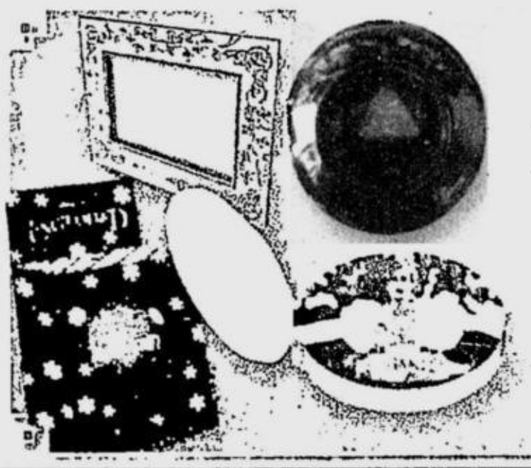
Thea Karina M. Estoy, 8
Baguio City

Please call Ate Dianne at 897-8808 local 340 to find out how you can claim your prize. All prizes must be claimed by November 23, 2007.

Mirror mirror on the wall...

Who is the fairytale princess who gets transported from her magical land to the gritty streets of New York in the Disney movie, "Enchanted"?

A) Rapunzel
B) Belle
C) Giselle
D) Liezl



Ten lucky readers who will answer correctly will get a Magic Answer Ball, set of stickers, photo frame and a manhole paper pad. Email your answers with your complete name, age and address to ji@inquirer.com.ph on or before November 20, 2007.

Out There

KOMIKON 2007. Meet comic book superstars Pol Medina (Pugad Baboy) and Gilbert Monsanto (Rambol) in the year's biggest gathering of professional and independent comics artists and publishers. Check out the launch of the hottest new titles and exciting events like an on-the-spot drawing contest that will showcase the best in the industry. The 3rd Filipino Komiks Convention will be held at the UP Bahay ng Alumni in Diliman, Quezon City on Saturday, November 17, 2007, from 10am to 6 pm. Visit http://komikon.blogspot.com for more information

* * *

WANTED: COVER GIRL! Spark, the science magazine for kids, is looking for a cover girl for its January-March 2008 issue. She must be 7 to 9 years old, residing in Metro Manila, and outgoing. Please send 1 closeup and 1 full body photo to spark@hip.ph on or before Tuesday, November 13, 2007.

* * *

ART FOR CHANGE. Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. and Buhay Isang Awit Foundation Inc. invite kids to join the Art for Change on-the-spot art contest on Saturday, November 17, 2007, 10 a.m. at West Wing, Level 3, Robinsons Galleria. The contest is open to all children ages 7-12 and is supported by Robinsons Place, National Bookstore and Globe Telecom. For more information, call Eppie Sonjaco at 552-6733 or 552-6745.

* * *

NUTCRACKER. Catch the "Nutcracker" as performed by the Philippine Ballet Theater at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Performance dates are Nov. 16 (8 p.m.), 17 (3 p.m. and 8 p.m.), and 18 (3 p.m.). For confirmation and reservation, please call the CCP Box Office at 832-3704 or 832-1125 locals 1409 and 1410. You can also get tickets from Ticketworld (www.ticketworld.com.ph) and www.yehey.com

* * *

STORYTELLERS NEEDED! Alitaptap Storytellers invites you to volunteer on Dec. 1 and 2 as they join Guide Foundation in a one hour storytelling session for children with disabilities. A total of 40 volunteer storytellers for 20 groups is needed. Stories to be used are Hardinerong Tipaklong and Mahiwagang Byulin. All volunteers will be briefed and rehearsed on Nov. 25 at the Multipurpose Hall of the Cultural Center of the Philippines from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please confirm your commitment and attendance for the Nov 25 workshop before Nov. 20. You may contact Percy Gapas at 535-4689 (Mondays to Fridays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or 0917-5392630.

Minnesota, USA

Pigging out

MICHELLE Schmitz feeds her pot-bellied pig, Alaina, a banana. The pig, which ate its way from 50 to 150 pounds while in the care of a sitter, has lost 15 pounds since being returned to Schmitz a week ago. Schmitz wanted to press charges after the animal gained 100 pounds while under a pet sitter's care. The pig is back on a strict diet. **AP**

Wassup World?

Fight global warming

UNITED States Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney read about global warming to schoolchildren at the Inquirer Read Along program. Some of these children admitted that their buzzword today is Al Gore's documentary on global warming. **Vincent Cabreza/Inquirer Northern Luzon**

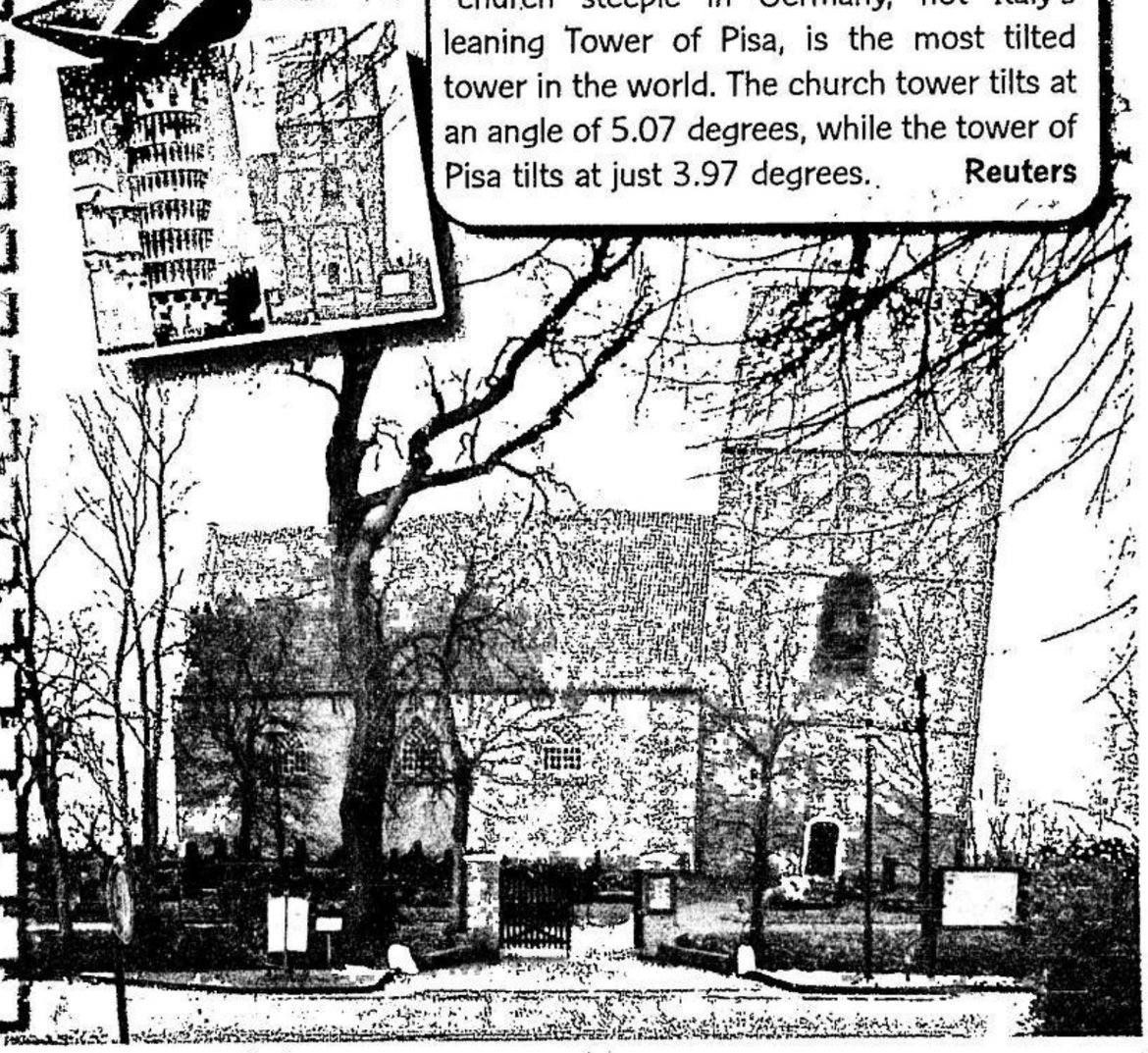
Baguio, PHILIPPINES

Madrid, SPAIN

Room with a view

VIOLINIST and composer Patricia Arguelles plays a violin inside a transparent huge glass cube in Madrid. To show how an artist lives, sleeps and works, Arguelles will stay in this room until Nov. 13. Only the bathroom is sealed from the public view. **AP**

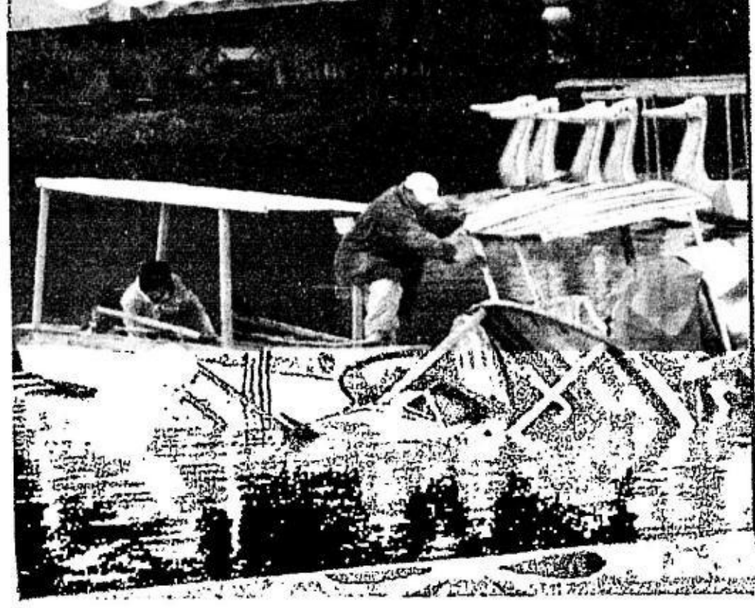
Suurhusen, GERMANY



Winning tilt

THE GUINNESS Book of World Records has ruled that a 15th century church steeple in Germany, not Italy's leaning Tower of Pisa, is the most tilted tower in the world. The church tower tilts at an angle of 5.07 degrees, while the tower of Pisa tilts at just 3.97 degrees. **Reuters**

Baguio, PHILIPPINES



Peipah power

WORKERS salvage small sunken boats at Burnham Park after tropical storm Peipah blew out into the South China Sea. The storm toppled power lines and left more than 600,000 people without electricity in the northern Philippines, rescuers said. There were no immediate reports of casualties in the unseasonal storm. **AFP**

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

ENTER THE BATTLEFIELD OF LEGENDS! VALKYRIE, THE FREE-TO-PLAY SERVER, IS HERE! LOAD UP UNTIL NOV. 14 AND GET FREE AMPLIFIED HEADGEAR! CELEBRATE EPISODE XV: RACHEL! FOR DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH

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PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.

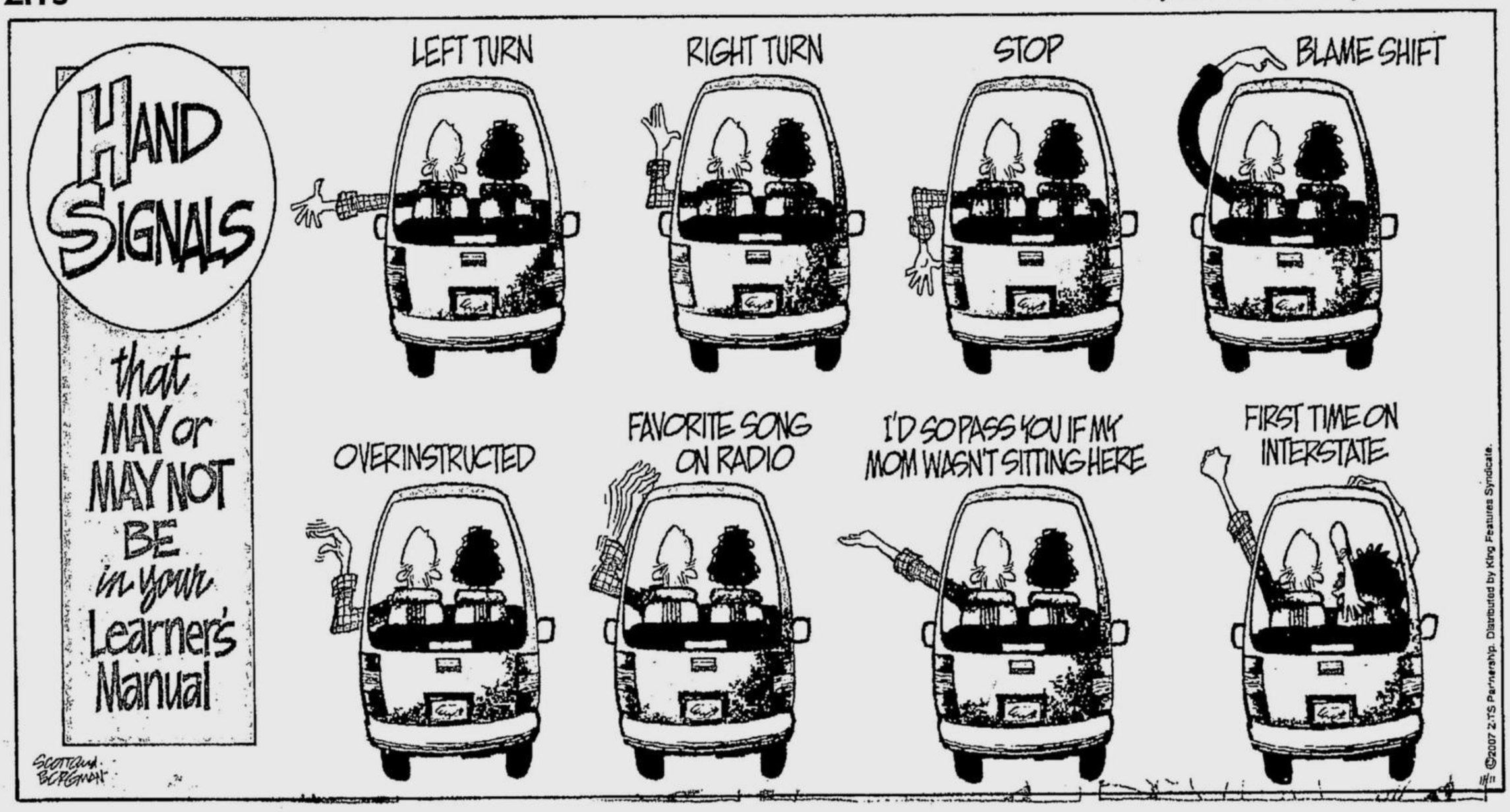
LASTWEEK: ASTIG ANG NAKALABAN NI SUPER INGGO, SI,KUMANDER KUTO,SUPER BILIS GUMAWA NG GATA ANG SUPER BIDA AT PINALIGO ITO SA KALABAN,MABISA PALANG PAMATAY NG KUTO ANG GATA NG NIYOG. SINO KAYA ANG MAKAKALABAN NYA NGAYON?

ABS-CBN ANIMATION

PAANO NATALO NI SUPER INGGO SI KOLOKOY SYOKOY? PANOORIN SA SABADO SA SUPER INGGO 1.5, ANG BAGONG BANGIS, NOV.17,5:45 PM, ABS-CBN

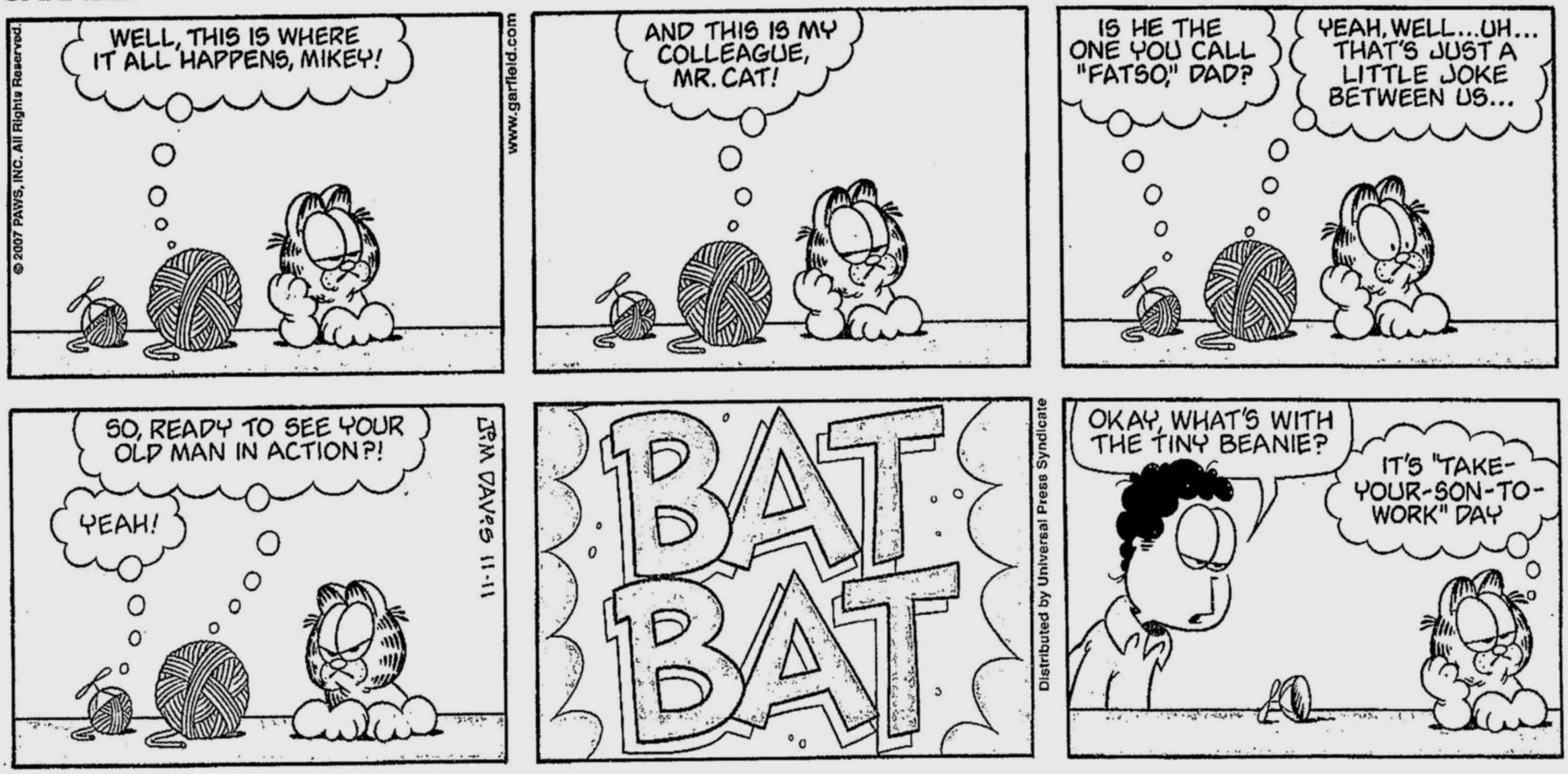
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



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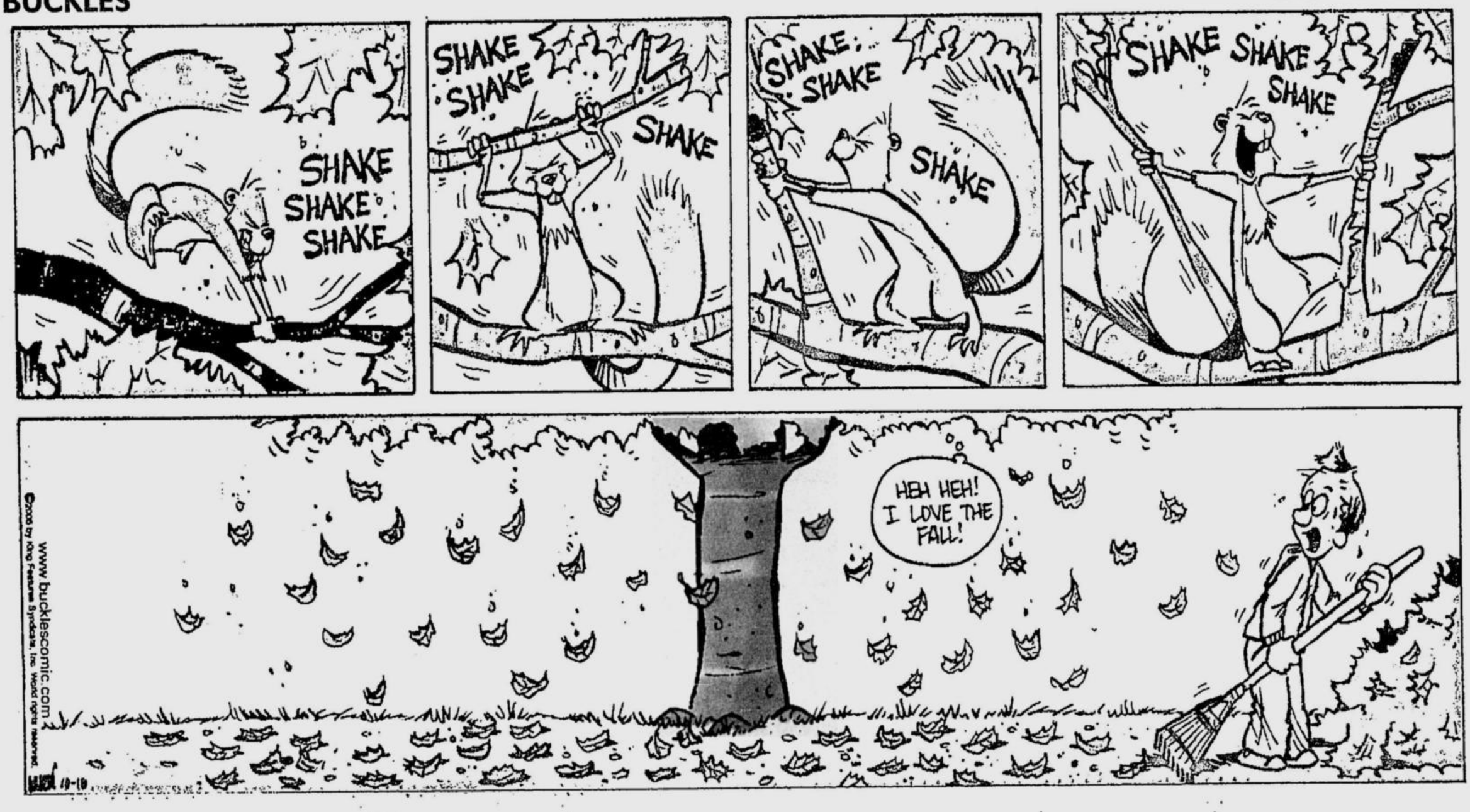
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



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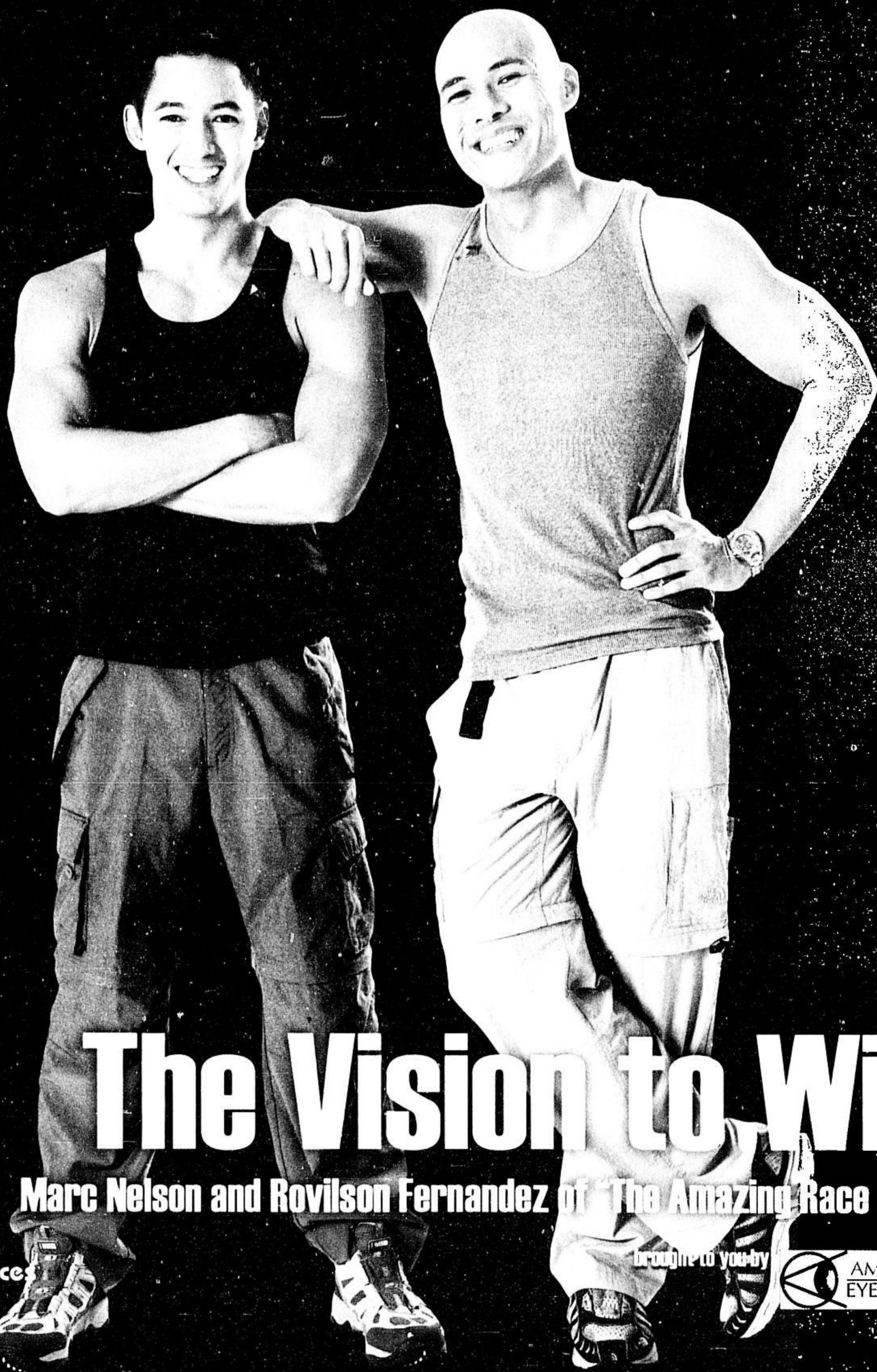
*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*

FREE

November 11, 2007



The Vision to Win

Marc Nelson and Rovilson Fernandez of "The Amazing Race Asia 2"

brought to you by AMERICAN EYE CENTER

+

balikbayan voices
box populi
retire in style
more!

By Jocelyn R. Uy

What's Inside Those Balikbayan Boxes?

Next to Christmas carols, these boxes announce the coming of the holidays. And the start of the Spam diet in most Filipino households

Illustration by Steph Bravo

BURLY Ramon Ungco has a schedule more hectic than Santa Claus as he makes his way to hundreds of Filipino homes every month, delivering the much anticipated *balikbayan* boxes that herald another season of cheer and plenty.

Ungco's sleigh and reindeer are the ten-wheeler cargo trucks and closed utility vans that negotiate rough roads across the country to deposit the precious boxes safely at the doorstep of expectant families. His elves are the muscled men, hired truck helpers, who hoist and carry the heavy boxes and packages.

"I've been all over the country, from Aparri to Jolo, to deliver *balikbayan* boxes," says Ungco, who owns the Port Jersey Shipping International Inc. "And I've seen countless faces light up when they see the gifts from their loved ones in the US."

Ungco has been providing door-to-door *balikbayan* box service to the Philippines for the past 25 years, and is just one of the many "Santa Clauses" in the country who deliver loads of of goodies specially picked out by Filipinos living abroad, for their loved ones back home. The local yellow pages reveal more than 50 firms engaged in shipping *balikbayan* boxes from the US, Middle East, Canada, Europe and Asia.

"After two decades of running this business, I've realized that Filipinos abroad always have this desire to share the good things they have with their families here," says Ungco, who maintains an office in New Jersey, and in Estrella Avenue, Makati City.

Among the lucky recipients of such generous tidings is Albert Emas, 24, for whom Christmas comes almost five times a year, with the arrival of large sweet-scented boxes from his aunt Ida, who migrated to New Jersey in 2004, and cousin Mon, a doctor in South Hampton, United Kingdom.

The boxes his family receives from his aunt, says Emas, are a treasure trove of canned goods, with the staples being corned beef and Spam; an assortment of chocolates and chocolate drinks; toys for the children and clothes for the grown-ups.

From his cousin, the goodies are usually bags, clothes and toys. "When malls abroad launch their yearly sales, you can be sure that another box will soon be on its way to our doorstep," he says.

Like Emas, most Filipinos receive *balikbayan* boxes loaded with canned goods, the favorite item sent home by overseas Filipino workers, reveals Ungco, whose clients are mostly nurses, doctors, engineers and accountants.

Last year, his company shipped about 10,000 of those 28- x 18-inch *balikbayan* boxes. Thirty-five percent of the goods inside the boxes were canned goods, he says, with clothes and shoes accounting for 25 percent; candies, 15 percent, and chocolates, 10 percent. Second-hand home appliances, electronic gadgets, old furniture, perfumes and toiletries such as soap, body wash and tissue paper account for the remaining 15 percent.

"Filipinos abroad have this penchant for grocery shopping for the folks back home, especially when there's a sale in supermarkets," says Ungco, who once made the rounds of New York City as a limousine driver before he started his shipping company in 1982. "Besides, canned goods are really cheaper abroad," he explains.

Around November and December—the holiday season—*balikbayan* boxes are packed with motley confections and chocolates, particularly those that are not available in the country, observes Ungco. "It's a habit among Filipinos abroad—buying stuff not usually found in the Philippines," he says, drawing from his own past experiences of sending home similar gift boxes to his mother. He recalls shipping back used home fixtures, old clothing and canned goods.

The UMAC Forwarders Express Inc., with offices in Quezon City and Marikina, shares the same experiences and observations on the contents of *balikbayan* boxes. The company, named after Teodoro Carino Jr., the late chair of the Forex Family of Companies, maintains offices in the United States, Europe, Middle East, Asia and Canada.

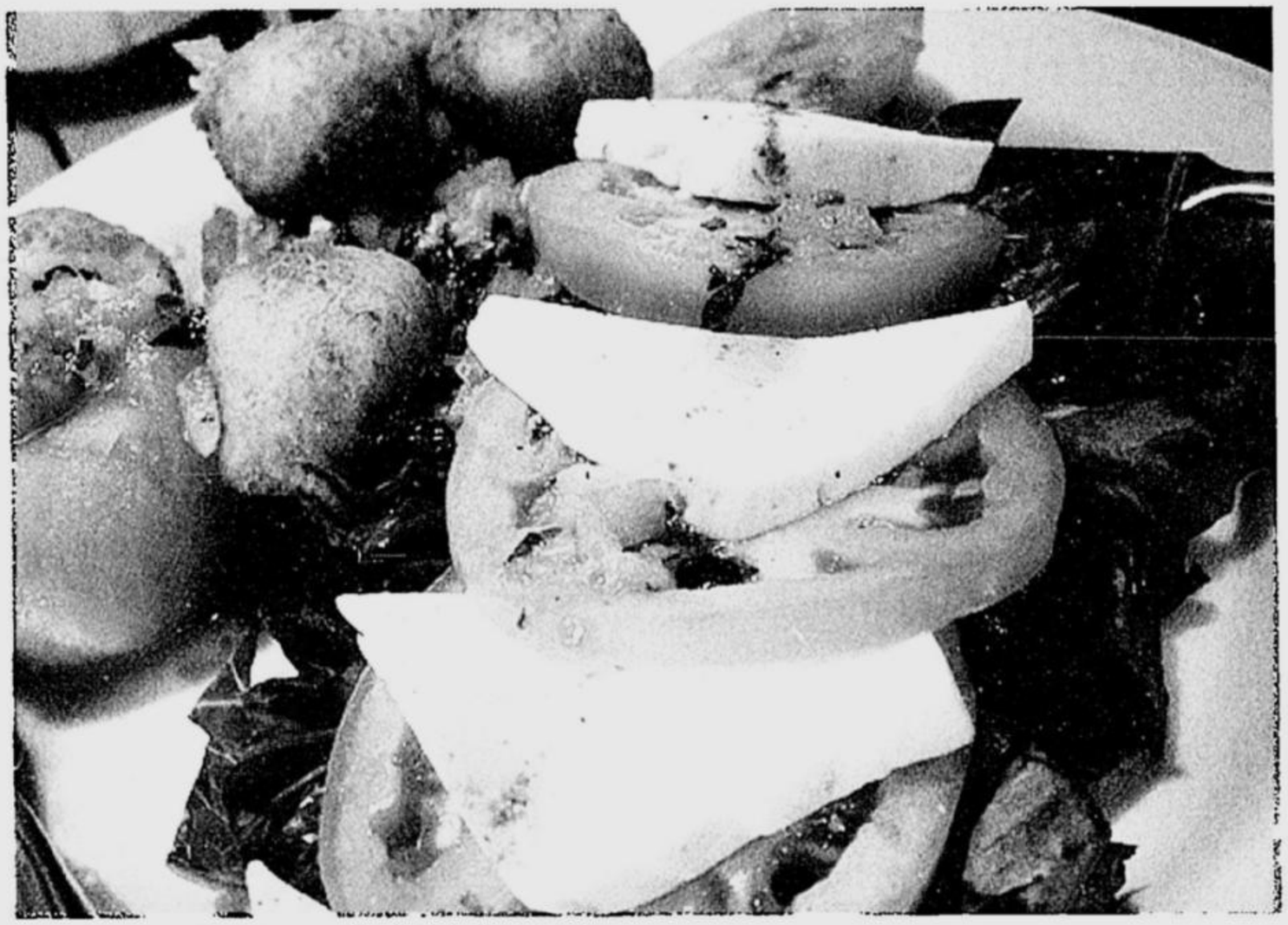
Canned goods, usually by the dozen, are the staple of the 23- x 20-inch *balikbayan* boxes, roughly 150,000 of which UMAC routed from the US, Europe and Canada last year. Other grocery items, including sacks of rice, are the next products of choice in the boxes that come from these countries, says Nette Baguisa of UMAC-Toronto. Used clothing and appliances come in third on their packing list. "Sometimes Filipino migrants even send packs of garlic and onions because they get them cheap abroad," she adds.

(continued on page 12)

Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

Nothing Tastes Like Home

"Don't take me to a fancy restaurant. What I want are the flavors of my younger years that I have not tasted since I left the Philippines."



Say cheese: The *Kesong Puti* Salad at Sentro

10 November 2007
Napa Valley
California

Dear *Inaanak* (godchild),

Thank you very much for your letter. I am also very excited to see all of you after 20 years in California! Thank you also for offering to take me out to all these wonderful restaurants. But really, I don't want to go anywhere fancy! If I wanted fine dining, I could have that anytime here. Thomas Keller's French Laundry, one of the five best rated restaurants in the world, is just a drive away. What I want are the flavors of my younger years that I have not had the pleasure of tasting since I left the Philippines.

So when I land, I want you take me first thing to the Aristocrat on Roxas Boulevard. Is it still there? I used to go there with my friends back when it was still Dewey Boulevard. Your mom loved their chicken barbecue so much she was craving it the whole time she was pregnant with Goldee. There is nothing quite like it here!

Then I want to have some really fresh fish from Dampa. Your *Tita* Atchie made me green with envy when she told me about your early morning trip to this fish market. I want to choose my own *tilapia* from the market vendor and have them cook it for me right there! I can't wait to eat with my hands.

I may have a day or two free to go out of town but I don't want to go too far. Your *Tito* Bill has told me about Viaje del Sol, a tour where you can visit several restaurants and attractions from Laguna to Quezon. There is a restaurant in Laguna called Kusina Salud that is part of the tour that I am very curious to try. It is managed by Nina Tesoro, daughter of couturier Patis Tesoro, and the chef is Nina's husband, Paul Poblador.Your *Tita* Nicky tells me he creates very unique dishes with unique names like *Adobong Antigo ni* Patis and Sizzling Vegetable *Gising Gising*. I hear he also makes a mean Lamb *Kaldereta*. I really want to try those and to see the interiors of this converted ancestral home.

Then I just want one dinner out at a reasonably priced restaurant where we can take the whole family before I leave. Again, I don't want anything too fancy. And if you can find a place with good *sinigang*, that would be the best!

Before I go home I also want to shop for items I can't find here: really good sampaloc, *pastillas*, coco jam, *ensaymada* and tsokolate.

If we can do any of these food trips I will be very happy, happier than if you took me to a P2000 per plate French restaurant!

Love,
Ninang Dette

11 November 2007
Manila, Philippines

Dear *Ninang*,

Done!

For that family dinner, we must have it at Sentro to complete your Filipino food fix. It is a clean, simply designed restaurant in Greenbelt 3. (Greenbelt is now very different from the Greenbelt you know! There are four different malls, and another one in the works, and these connect to other Makati malls and department stores like Glorietta, SM and Landmark. Don't worry about the recent Glorietta tragedy in the news. Goes without saying that it was really tragic but all Gloriettas have been in full operation since the day after the blasts.)

Anyway, you will absolutely love Sentro's *Kesong Puti* Salad, which has both fresh and fried *kesong puti* on fresh tomatoes and lettuce. For your *sinigang* fix, they offer a unique Corned Beef *Sinigang* which uses corned beef short ribs! I call it corned beef *sinampalukan* because it is cooked in a tamarind broth (my favorite!)

For your shopping we can go to the Salcedo Market, although this is just open on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. We can have brunch there. You can choose from the many selections of fish flown in from the provinces and grilled before you or enjoy some Cebu *lechon* or even have *lechong baka* (cow)! There are also some really good puddings available like *Tita* Ope's, that also sells *ensaymada*, or *Tita* Moning's. And exotic fresh fruits like Bangkok lanzones or Chinese pears from a very amiable fruit vendor named Rene.

Or we can go to Market! Market! in Taguig. (Fort Bonifacio has a whole new personality now and is now called Bonifacio Global City.) A section there

(continued on page 13)

FEATURE

By Claire Agbayani
Photographs by Romy Homillada

Finding Their Way Back Home

Two couples and why they've decided to come back to the Philippines after living The American Dream

THERE are still a lot of things that get to Kristine Puno about the Philippines, "like traffic, pollution, the occasional lack of customer service and people's *bahala na* (fatalistic) attitude." But despite it all, declares this homemaker turned entrepreneur, the decision proved to be rewarding, especially in terms of business opportunities. The Punos moved back to the country in August 2006.

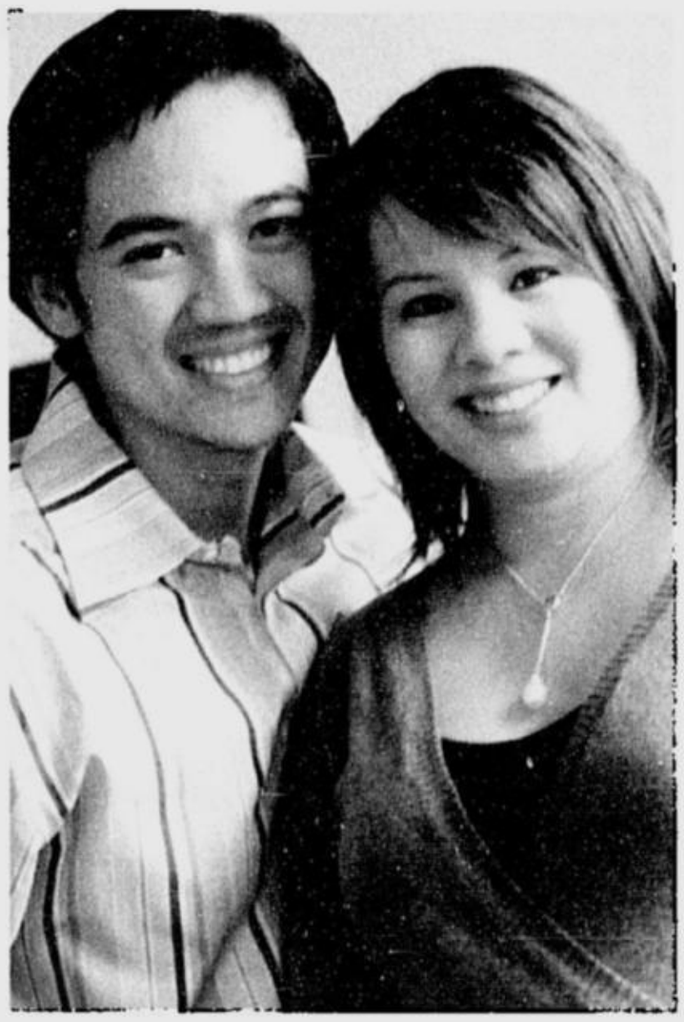
For Corky and Aileen Pasquil, resettling in the Philippines was a means to rediscover their roots and give their children a sense of their Filipino identity. "We've always wanted our young children to learn to speak Filipino and appreciate our culture and history," says Corky, CEO and COO of a garment business. "There's simply no better place for that than here."

Moving back to the old country when just about everyone these days is leaving for "better shores" may sound unusual, and indeed, even the Puno couple initially rushed back to the United States when they first tried to resettle back in 1998.

"When we tried to come back and live here in '98," says US-born and bred Kristine, "the Philippines was very much behind in terms of technology, product availability, and medical care, among other things. I was miserable. After six months, we decided that the fit was not right for us, so we packed and moved back to the US."

A visit in 2004 softened their initial impression. Recalls Kristine: "Our son Nik was hospitalized due to a bug bite infection while we were in Manila, and I was impressed by the medical care he got. I remember telling my husband that we could take a stab at living here again. Little did I know that one year later, we would be offered the opportunity to come back."

In Valencia, California, the Punos ran two businesses—a medical and legal transcription company and an indoor air quality and mold inspection firm. In 2005, Raffy's father asked him to come home to run the family corporation, RPRP Ventures Management & Development Corporation, which is into real estate and property development, foreign



Good timing: Raffy and Kristine Puno

representation and public affairs consultancy.

"I went to visit in November 2005 to see exactly what it was that I would be doing," recounts Raffy. " I decided that there were some great opportunities, so we talked it over and moved back in." He adds, "I did this after having lived in the US for 21 years. The Philippine economy was on the upswing again, and with the weakening US dollar, it was a good time to invest in the country again."

The decision to move back wasn't easy though, says Raffy . "It was a tough decision for me and my family, but it all came down to opportunity and timing. So we went for it, and we're glad we did."

For Kristine, moving back to the country meant facing uncertainties about her future. "We knew exactly what Raffy would be doing, but what was my role? I figured I could be a stay-at home mom and raise my two boys. But just a year and a half later, I found myself getting busier than when I was in the States."

The cost of labor has everything to do with it, she adds. "In the States, I owned and operated my own medical transcription business, which I've continued in Manila. The only difference is, now I have someone who does the transcription for me!"

With time on her hands and the opportunity offered by her husband's RPRP Ventures,

"No better place." Aileen and Corky Pasquil

Kristine opened Lookgood Industries, Inc., which owns the clothing brand Limelight Fashions, which caters to fashion-conscious career women. Lookgood recently ventured into maternity wear with its Procreation Mommy Chic line, recently launched at Trinoma. The Pasquils have ventured into MyBarong.com, the first online store to sell *barongs*.

Aside from finding her own niche, Kristine points to the Internet as a crucial factor in making them stay. "There was no Internet in 1998 (when we first came in), but now the Philippines is just as advanced as other countries. The Internet is my saving grace when I miss home. I just connect to the Net and I feel like I'm back home in the US. As far as communications, texting and cell phones are concerned, the Philippines can be much more advanced than the States."

Business networking is just as good, says Raffy. "I've found that I have far better access to the movers and shakers of industry here in the Philippines. In the US, it's very rare to find yourself in the same room with the CEOs of major corporations. Here, I'm actually able to meet with them and even play golf with them. It's a tremendous opportunity to generate new business ideas and to learn from these industry giants."

Metro Manila's rapid development has helped a lot as well, he notes. "It's hardly recognizable as the place where I grew up. I think the country has made great strides

in the areas of technology and the service industry." However, he adds, a lot remains to be done if the country is to compete with the other emerging Asian countries. "The new airport is a good place to start—if it ever opens," he says.

For the Pasquils, going home meant finding family again.

"From my experience," says Corky, "being born and raised in the States meant learning very little Visayan, since my grandparents migrated to the US in the 1920s and 1930s from Cebu and Siquijor. So I'm still at the 'elementary' level in terms of speaking Filipino."

Wife Aileen, who migrated to the States with her entire family when she was six, managed to keep her language skills. Her grandfather, says Corky, required her to speak Filipino in his presence. He is following suit, he adds. "Here in Manila, our children use Filipino." They also learn about Philippine culture and history in school, unlike in the US where information on the Philippines are often distorted and biased," says Corky. "We're thrilled to now see our 7-year-old learning about *our* country and *our* heroes. It's important that our children learn about the world without being limited by a narrow-minded US-centric view."

A closer family life is another bonus of life in the old country, the couple notes. Back in the US, as a middle class family, they barely had enough time and energy to raise the children, manage the household, and run the business. "Shuttling the children to and from school and their extracurricular activities was a logistical and time management challenge. Going out on a simple 'date' without the children was both costly as baby-sitting is expensive and infrequent since 'free time' was scarce," recalls Corky.

Now, he narrates, "We enjoy a lifestyle not possible in the US. Having a house staff and driver frees up our time to enjoy our life together. Beyond their daily schooling, the children are also savouring the many cultural, arts and sports activities that abound here. Aileen and I now have enough time to run the business *and* hang out with our children, travel and take up new hobbies."

Even from a business perspective, Corky adds, it was "a no-brainer." He explains: "To be able to grow the business into a well-managed organization, we needed to surround ourselves with people who were better than us in their respective areas of expertise. In the US, it was cost-prohibitive for our small business to hire a full-time staff with the credentials we needed. Since we moved here in July, we've built an impressive team with skills that include customer service, industrial engineering, garment production, sales and marketing, quality control, fashion design and web site development. Our products and our people are genuinely and proudly Filipino."

He feels as proud of the country, says Corky. "The Philippines is vastly underrated in many respects. There are many misconceptions about the country held even by our own relatives back in the US. For one, we often hear the question, 'Is it safe to be there if you're not a local?' followed by sensationalized tidbits from the US media about kidnappings, rebel insurgents, etc. But there are essentially the same social unrest, political turmoil, poverty and violence in the US as there are here. The US media simply don't spend the time or resources to objectively and thoroughly illustrate the complexity which is the Philippines."

Corky concludes: "Personally and simply stated, the Philippines is a much better place to raise children. Compared to the US, family life in the Philippines is superior. Of course, this is from the perspective of a family that earns dollars but lives here."

Kristine agrees, but then again, she might be speaking from the point of view of an expecting mother. At 34, as a busy business executive, a devoted wife and hands-on mother to two boys, being six and half months pregnant might present a crisis in the US. But here, she says, she considers it a blessing. •

Contributed photos

New ventures: Clothes from Limelight Fashions and MyBarong.com

By Tony M. Maghirang

To Retire and Prosper in RP

The country's weather, the Pinoy's sunny disposition, and the affordable cost of living have prompted some 16,000 expats to make the Philippines their twilight home, says the Philippine Retirement Authority

PRA: Mandated to attract foreigners and former Pinoys to spend their golden years in the Philippines

WHILE the rest of the world is luring the best young minds out of our country, we are attracting former Filipino citizens and foreign nationals to spend their golden years in these balmy islands.

In fact, a whole new retirement industry has sprung up in the wake of government's push to make the Philippines the premier retirement destination in Asia, an initiative embodied in Executive Order No. 1307 issued in July 1985.

And why not? Just like brain drain, there's an economic underpin behind E.O. 1307. The retirement industry, if fully developed, is projected to generate US$18 to $56 billion from about 840,000 foreign retirees by 2015. It is also projected to create some four million jobs and help reverse the out-migration of Filipino health workers and other professionals.

The Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA), a government-owned and controlled corporation attached to the Department of Trade and Industry, carries out the mandate of attracting foreign nationals and former Filipino citizens to retire in the country or make this their second home. Its main program, the Special Resident Visitor's Visa (SRVV) Program, offers a host of advantages and benefits to its target clientele.

Col. Fernando Z. Francisco GSC PA (Ret.), PRA's acting General Manager, qualifies that the term "former Filipinos" refers to those born in the Philippines of Filipino parents, but who carry foreign passports. It distinguishes them from the generic *balikbayans* who can come and go or retire in the country as they wish without need for a special package of privileges and attractions.

Under the SRVV program, foreigners acquire permanent residency status without having to get an entry or exit permit from the Bureau of Immigration when they come in or move out of the country. Neither do they have to get the I-Card, the official document recognized by the immigration bureau, nor pay any travel tax.

The program also entitles foreign guests to duty-free importation of personal effects valued up to $7,000. They can also avail themselves of assistance, free of charge, from PRA should they wish to work or engage in business in the Philippines. The retirement promotions agency can help walk the visitor through the necessary process so his business or employment will be legally recognized in the country.

Adds Francisco: "There are other perks like our 'Greet and Assist' activity right at the airport. If they provide details of their arrival, we can pick them up at the airport and bring them to their home here in the Philippines free of charge, if within Metro Manila, Metro Cebu or Davao."

The PRA looks beyond the hospitality and sunny smile associated with Filipinos to draw foreign retirees here, says Francisco. "Retiring in the Philippines is not just about getting a special visa. We'd like to think we're offering a new way to a good life for them."

With personal safety being a top concern among foreigners, the PRA has focused on six destinations which are reasonably safe. In Luzon, this includes Northern Luzon and its environs, with Baguio as the main selling point; Central Luzon with Clark and Subic; and Southern Luzon with Tagaytay and Metro Manila.

In the Visayas, Cebu is a recommended retirement haven, along with Negros Oriental, Panay Island and Leyte. Recommended safe destinations in Mindanao are Davao, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos City and Bukidnon.

The availability of health care facilities in most of the recommended areas for retiree residency is another selling feature of the program, with tertiary public and private hospitals accredited by the health department in these places. The selected areas also have leisure and entertainment facilities like golf courses, night clubs beaches, and resorts.

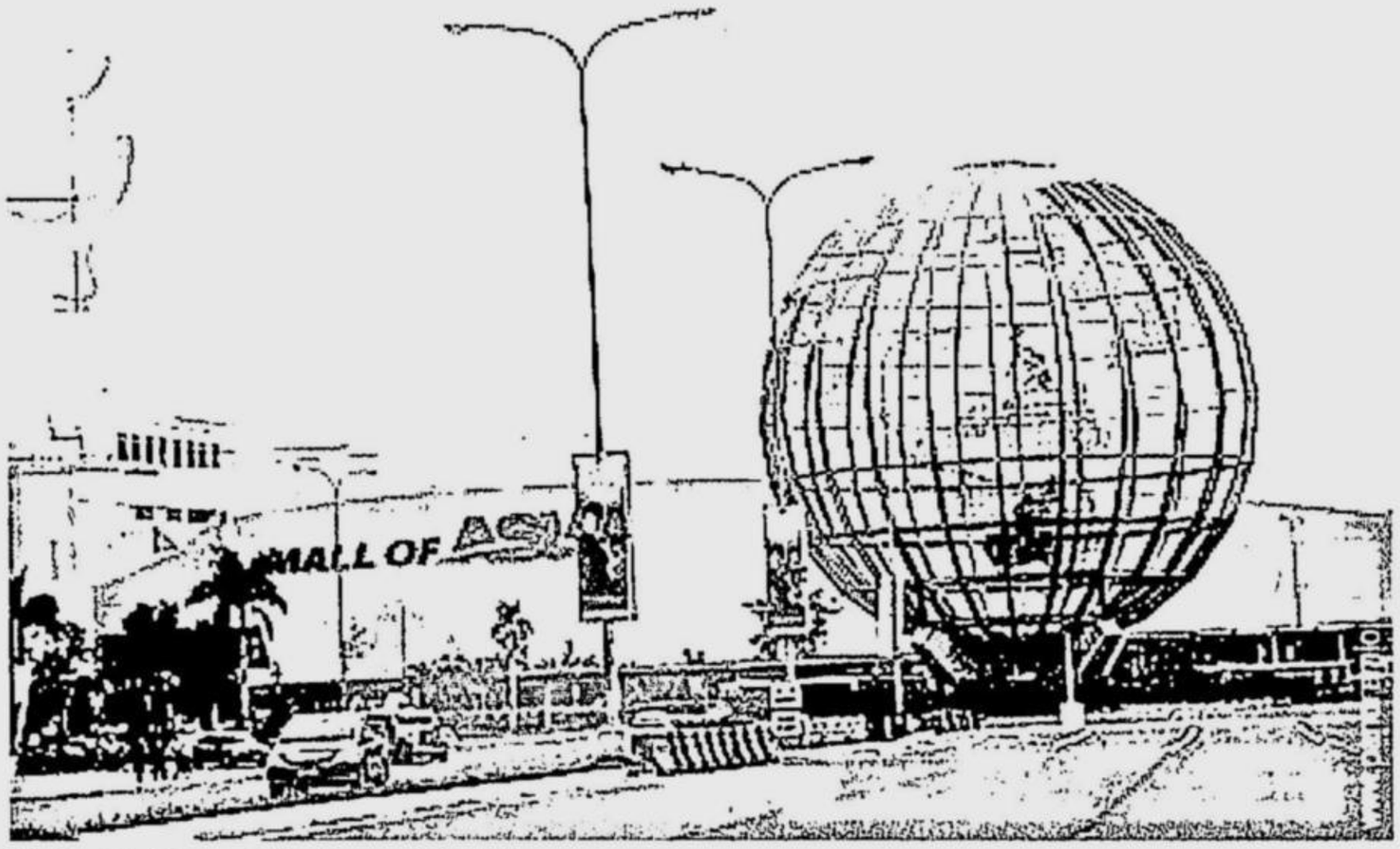
Then there's the warm weather and our world-famous hospitality. Says Francisco: "Filipinos smile through thick and thin. We've gone through a lot of crises—from martial law to the people power revolution—and came out smiling. That's an asset no other nation has."

(continued on page 11)

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Spell It "Balik-BUY-an"

What do balikbayans spend on when they visit the country? A possible retirement home, a bit of privacy, gifts for their families here, and home cooked foods and pastries to lug back and enjoy when they fly back home



Malls: Getting a fair share of *balikbayan* money

YOU can take the Filipino out of the country, but you can't take the Philippines out of the Filipino.

Even when they've been living comfortably abroad for years, Filipinos can still be counted on to visit the country regularly to renew and revitalize their existing ties with relatives and friends.

Data from the Department of Tourism show that the United States is consistently among the top sources of visitors to the Philippines, accounting for 20 percent of the 2.8 million visitors coming to the country. And almost of them are Filipinos carrying American passports.

The rest of the *balikbayans* are Filipinos permanently residing in other countries, like Canada, Australia, Singapore, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates.

Like their counterparts in the US, these Filipinos are flushed with cash, which they are ready and willing to spend on themselves and their families. This makes *balikbayans* a potent economic force in the Philippines, with several sectors particularly buoyed by their moneyed presence.

Sentro: Filipino cuisine as selling point

In an interview, John Victor R. Antonio, chief operating officer of the Century Properties group, one of the country's leading real estate companies, revealed that about one in four people who buy its single-detached units—like the Canyon Ranch in Cavite—and the bigger-sized condominium units, is a *balikbayan* or a visiting Filipino who is permanently residing outside the Philippines.

"They are really looking for retirement homes here because in terms of lifestyle, the Philippines can't be beat," Antonio explains. "About 80 percent of the people who come back to the Philippines regularly say that they want to retire here, and that's why they're buying homes."

For this reason, other real estate companies like Ayala Land Inc. and Megaworld Corp. are targeting the *balikbayan* market, and have even set up marketing offices in countries with big Filipino communities to get them to buy property in the Philippines.

Willy Ocier of Belle Corp., which owns and operates the Tagaytay Highlands resort property, confirms this. Members usually bring their visiting friends and family to the sports and country club to show them a better side of the Philippines, he noted.

"The club is a favorite destination because it's convenient to go there. It's a short drive from Metro Manila."

Malls are also getting their fair share of the estimated $100 that tourists, including *balikbayans*, spend every day they are in the country. Millie Dizon, vice president of the SM mall chain, said the group has even entered into a joint marketing agreement with the DOT, under which the tourism department encourages visitors to visit its malls, particularly the Mall of Asia in Pasay City. The SM group, for its part, includes the DOT special tours in its own customer campaigns.

"We do cross promotions and help these guests with what they need," Dizon said.

She added that *balikbayan* arrivals peak in July—when US schools go on a break until September—and in December, when *balikbayans* come home to spend their Christmas holidays here.

Roel Chan, brand manager of Uniglobe Travelware Co., Inc. agrees. Chan said that during these months, Uniglobe—which handles The North Face, Columbia and Jansport brands in the Philippines—notices an increase in the sale of its goods, thanks to purchases made by returning Filipinos for their families.

"We did some qualitative studies and results show that there is an increase in sales from *balikbayans*, especially in June and December," Chan said, "In December, jackets and more novelty items sell, while in June, the Jansport bags sell because it's time to go back to school."

Even the restaurants are getting a windfall from *balikbayans*, especially those that specialize in Filipino cuisine like Sentro of the Chateau restaurant group. Chateau

(continued on page 11)

By Joyce Ramirez

An Eye on Medical Tourism

First world health services at third world cost have been attracting patients and tourists to our shores

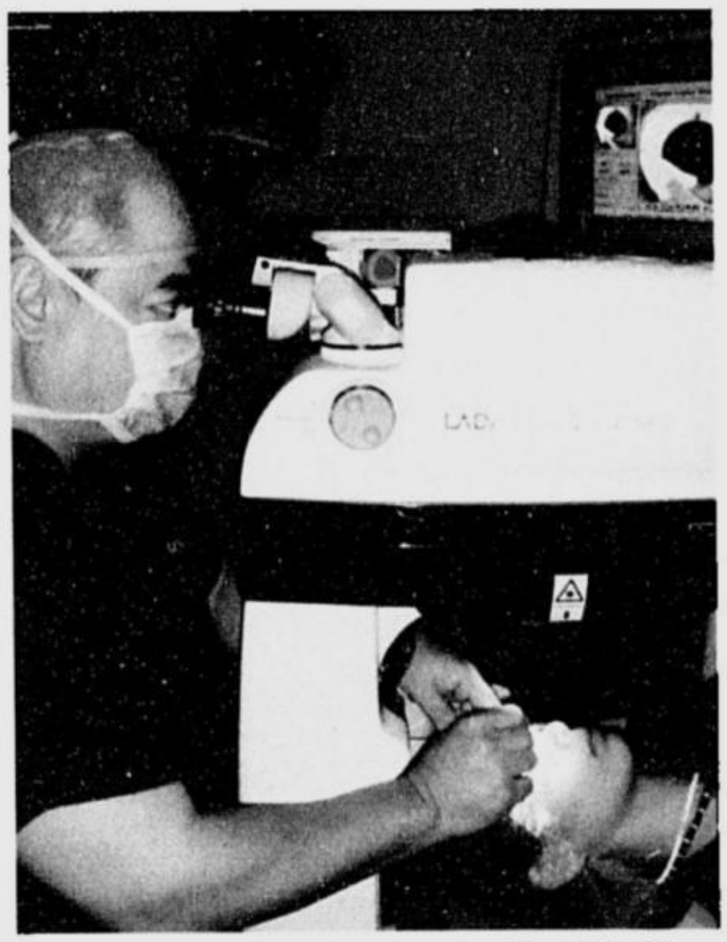
THE outrage over the racist slur against Filipino medical professionals in the ABC hit show "Desperate Housewives," has led to an online petition circulated worldwide, calls for a boycott of all ABC shows, demands for an apology and a rewrite of the script, and a diplomatic complaint.

And rightly so. After all, Filipino medical workers are in demand all over the world, even in the United States where more and more Americans have been flying to Cuba to study medicine at less cost.

Similarly, foreigners have been coming to the Philippines, not only for medical studies, but also to obtain first world medical services at third world prices. Known as medical tourism or health tourism, this development is expected to boost the country's tourism earnings while burnishing the Filipino medics' reputation.

Medical tourism is popular because *balikbayans* and other tourists stand to save a lot by having the same expensive procedure done in this country at lower cost, says Dr. Jack Arroyo, president of the Associated Eye Specialists, who also performs keratorefractive surgery at the American Eye Center at Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

"In the Philippines, you have top doctors who have already treated hundreds or even thousands of patients and therefore have vast clinical experience to back up their qualification. In the US, you are treated by any doctor who's available, and at top dollar at that. These doctors may not even have the same qualifications as the top ones in our country," Arroyo observes.



Filipino medical professionals: First World credentials

Medical procedures such as dental treatment, cosmetic surgery and refractive surgery— which are not covered by standard medical insurance policies—cost approximately a third of what medical professionals in the US or Europe would charge, if done in the Philippines.

LASIK, a type of refractive laser eye surgery, for instance would cost about US$2,000 an eye when performed in a reputable hospital in the United States. In the Philippines, particularly at the American Eye Center, it would only cost US$800 an eye or about P35,000.

While a more affordable price tag undoubtedly attracts patients, there are still residual fears among medical tourists that the results might be substandard. Arroyo sets those fears to rest.

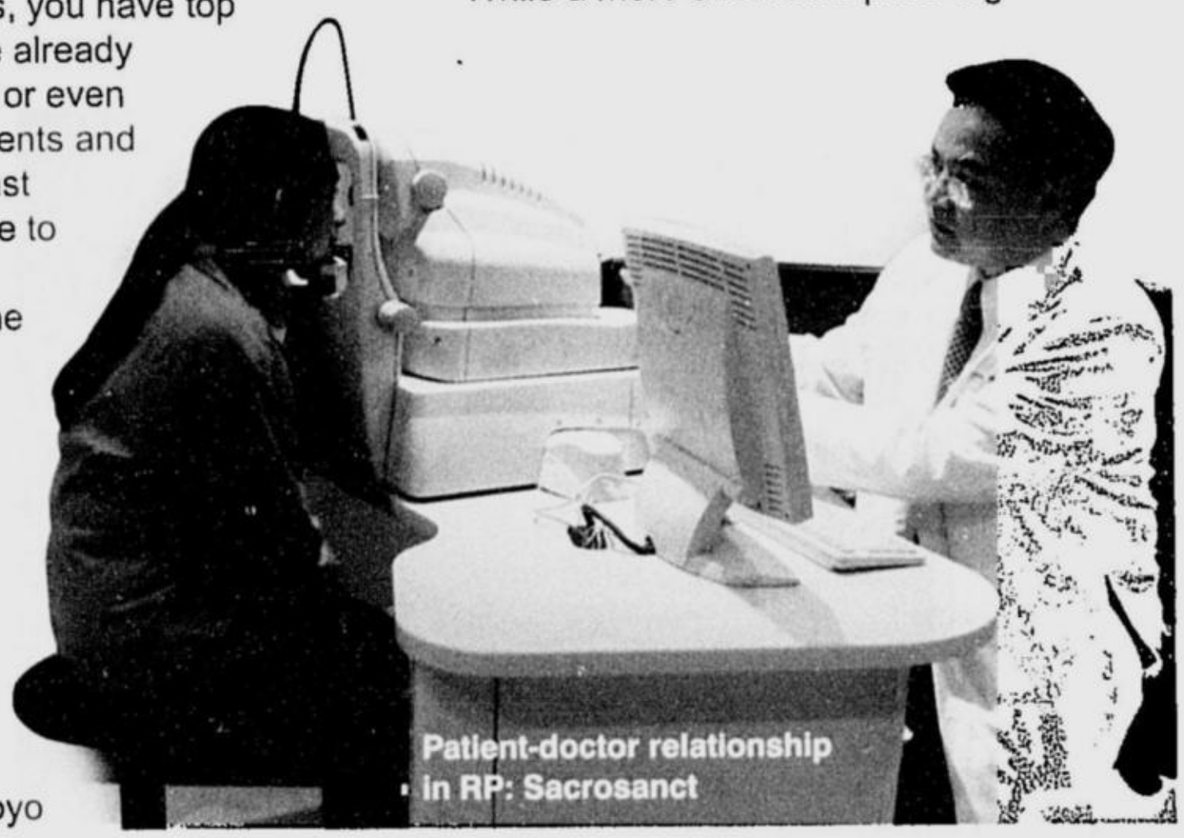
The Department of Health, the Professional Regulatory Commission and PhilHealth establish standards and routinely perform the annual accreditation of these doctors, he explains. Such safeguards ensure that all licensed medical doctors in the Philippines are capable of and competent at performing medical procedures asked of them, Arroyo adds.

Arroyo, a self-proclaimed "Scholar *ng Bayan*," is a prime example of how Filipino doctors are of comparable medical expertise with their foreign colleagues, as he has personally performed over 25,000 LASIK procedures at the American Eye Center. As the first to perform LASIK in Asia, the doctor has a lot of American patients who fly into the country for the procedure.

"I am happy to practice in my home country where the relationship between physician and patient is sacrosanct," he says, adding that in other countries, there is a general wariness between doctors and patients because of the possibility of malpractice suits. The huge medical insurance that doctors pay for also affects their fees and leads to a lot of exploratory medical procedures that patients have to pay for.

The difference in costs and comparable service serves Domingo Ramon Enerio well. The tourism attache of the Department of Tourism in London goes home to the Philippines three to four times a year for official reasons. But like other *balikbayans*, he takes advantage of his trips home to frequent his doctor and have

(continued on page 14)



Patient-doctor relationship in RP: Sacrosanct

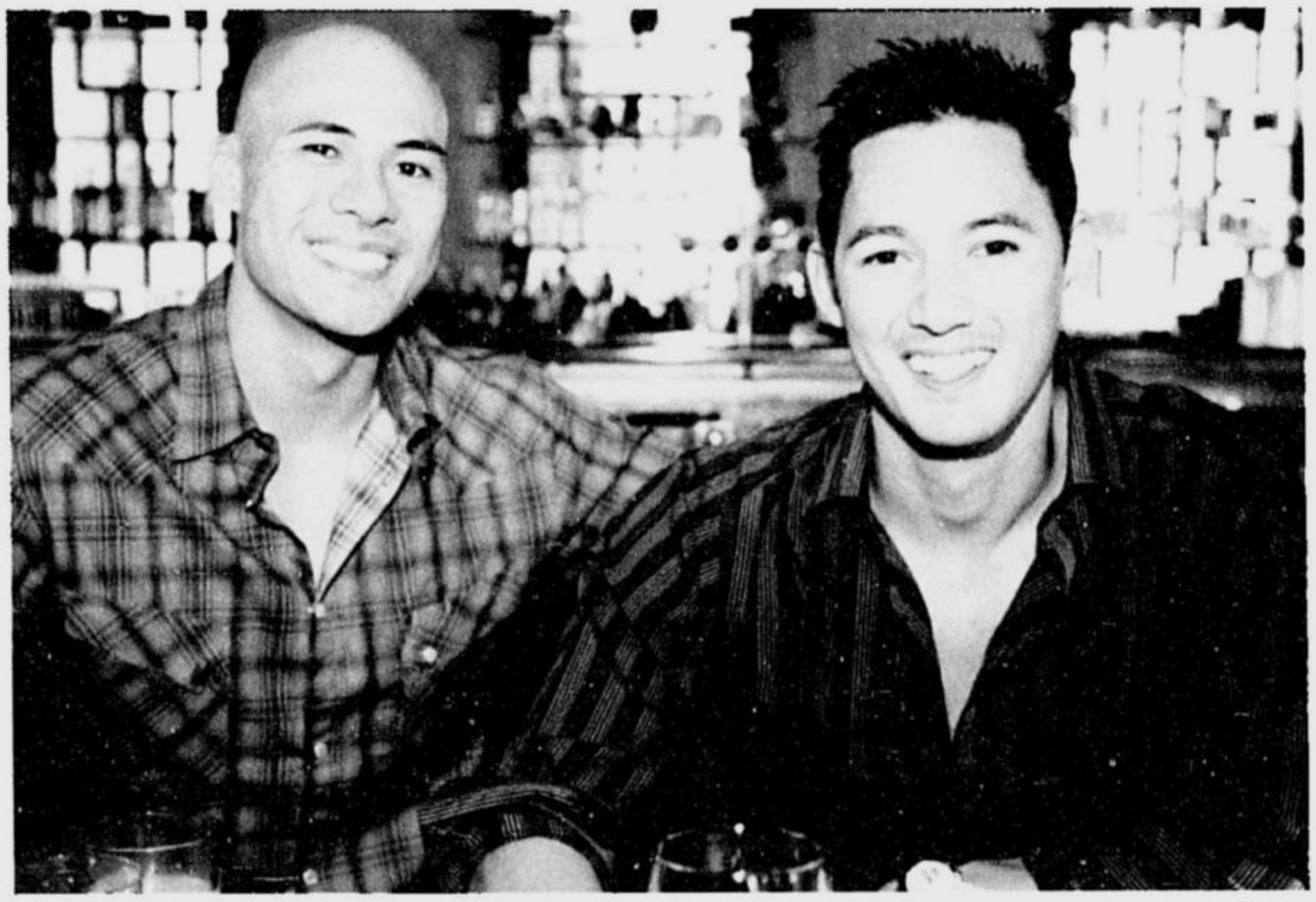
Patients, My Dear

Here is a breakdown of the patient composition at the American Eye Center:

- 20 percent medical tourists (non-Filipino)
- 30 percent *balikbayans* or overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)
- 30 percent Filipino with Chinese ethnicity
- 20 percent from the A & B socio-economic strata (local residents)

Setting their Sights on First Place

Philippine representatives Marc Nelson and Rovilson Fernandez put their best foot forward in the "The Amazing Race Asia 2," and might just bring home top honors



In top form: Rovilson Fernandez and Marc Nelson

THANKS to good vision, Marc Nelson and Rovilson Fernandez are eyeing first place in the AXN Original Production "The Amazing Race Asia 2." Not that it's any surprise. One look at these athletic and attractive men and you know that our country's representatives definitely have a fighting chance.

The two *balikbayans*, who have always led an active lifestyle, are perfect for this reality show which premieres November 22 on action-adventure channel AXN at 9 p.m.

"The Amazing Race Asia 2" promises to be bigger, better and bolder, with more exciting challenges and unexpected pitstops, plus lots of drama, laughs and conflicts among contestants from all over the world. Asia's edition of the Emmy Award-winning reality-competition series will surely push the envelope further with its second season.

Preparing for the race was not exactly a walk in the park for Mark and Rovilson. Although they're both gym rats who have been to some of the Philippines' most scenic spots, they have their own Achilles' heel. Running, admits Marc, is his weak spot. "I hate to run, I really do. It's not my favorite thing. The actual running during the race scared me. I don't do the treadmill in the gym, so I had to step up on my cardio a bit," he says.

For Rovilson, being part of the race meant brushing up on geography. "We had to be familiar with a lot of stuff, like maps and current events." The two also made sure to psyche themselves up and watched previous episodes of the series to study the right strategies.

Another essential element in joining a grueling contest like "The Amazing Race Asia" is perfect vision, the two guys reveal. When you need to search for clue boxes in a sea of people, spot route markers deliberately hidden from view or locate competing teams, perfect eyesight can make a difference.

Before the contest, Rovilson had been wearing contact lenses for 10 years. While they're not limiting during day time, he says it's a different story at night. But then, he explains, people with contact lenses tend to have limited vision, dry eyes and a sense of walking through a haze or smoke.

He adds: "In 'The Amazing Race Asia 2,' where you are racing for 24 hours, contact lenses can slow and weigh you down." One needs to take the lenses out at night, clean them with various solutions and soak them overnight, only to repeat the tedious cleaning process before popping them in again the next day. "I wanted freedom from all that," explains Rovilson. "So I walked into the American Eye Center, where I had a consultation, picked an 'enhancement' date and—voila! 20/20 vision! I have a tougher time ordering a steak."

The enhancement that Rovilson refers to is Lasik, a surgical vision correction procedure intended to reduce a person's dependency on glasses or contact lenses. American Eye Center uses the LADARVision® System, a technology that lets the doctor personalize your laser vision treatment to match each of your eyes' individual optical characteristics. Much better than traditional Lasik, the LADARVision® System lets the doctor create a three-dimensional map of your unique visual distortions, ensures accurate placement of the small-spot laser beam, and precisely removes the targeted tissue and reshapes your cornea.

Located at Level Five of Shangri-la Plaza Mall, the American Eye Center holds the distinction of being the country's premier ophthalmic laser center for the treatment of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. It is managed by the Associated Eye Specialists, the most experienced and longest-running Eye MD group practice in the Philippines. The Center also has the largest clinical experience in Southeast Asia, with over 30,000 refractive procedures performed.

"It's liberating," Rovilson says of LADARVision® System and how it has changed his life.

Will 20/20 vision give Nelson and Rovilson an edge in the "The Amazing Race Asia 2"? Guess we'll just have to tune in to find out. •

American Eye Center is located on Level 5, Shangri-La Plaza, EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, 1500 Philippines, with telephone nos. +632 636 0762 or mobile +63 917 LASER ME. Visit their website at www.eyecenter.com.ph or email info@eyecenter.com.ph

Catch the premiere episode of "The Amazing Race Asia 2" on November 22, 2007, and every Thursday at 9 p.m. exclusively on the AXN Channel. For more information, visit www.axn-asia. com.

By Imelda V. Abaño

A Tragic Homecoming

Like other overseas Filipino workers, Jocelyn Dulnuan dreamt of sending her family a taste of the good life in a box. She never thought she'd come home in one

Dulnuan in a photo from her Friendster account

TORONTO, Canada—They migrate in droves. Every year, thousands of nannies from the Philippines arrive in Canada—often armed with nothing but some training in care-giving skills, a passport, a suitcase and a dream.

For Jocelyn Dulnuan, 27, a native of a farming community in Hingyon, Ifugao, the dream ended too soon. Dulnuan was found dead inside her employer's house in Mississauga, Ontario on October 1, 2007. While police probe the gruesome murder, her family and friends worked diligently to raise funds to return her body to the Philippines.

An educated woman with a degree in Criminology, she left her husband and one-year-old kid to work in Hong Kong in 2005 as a domestic helper, until she heard the buzz about the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) in Canada. Dulnuan learned that if she could work for two full years in a Canadian household within a three-year period, she could become a landed immigrant and bring her family to Canada.

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), the LCP is meant to fill up the country's shortage of nannies, a job Canadians are unwilling to do. Over 100,000 Filipinos—about 85 percent of whom are women—have come to Canada as caregivers, making the Philippines the main supplier of nannies to Canada. Many of them are trained nurses. The CIC has cited the Filipinos' ability to speak and understand English and high level of education as factors in their favor.

In the 2006 CIC report, 6,244 workers were admitted under this program, with 77 percent of them from the Philippines. At least 1,528 Filipino live-in caregivers were granted permanent resident status.

Despite the promising statistics, LCP does not offer an easy life.

Leslie, 42, arrived in Canada in January 2007 under the program. A teacher and mother of three, she left the Philippines to help out her husband who works as a seasonal laborer. The Zambales native is taking care of a year-old baby in Toronto.

Said Leslie: "Who does not want to return to one's own country? But life is hard in the Philippines. There are no jobs. I have to sacrifice some more to give my family a decent life."

Fellowship with other Filipinos and caregivers helps ease Leslie's depression, as do regular phone calls home. In many cases, caregivers share an apartment, an arrangement that provides them with a surrogate family and divides the cost of rent.

Live-in caregivers like Leslie, are paid minimum wage, approximately C$850 or P35,700 a month, minus C$325 or P13,650 for room and board as well as other deductions. It is hardly enough to support her family back home, she said.

Despite that, Canada remains an attractive place for live-in caregivers, said Prof. Denise Spitzer, the University of Ottawa's Canada Research Chair in Gender, Migration and Health.

Spitzer is presently conducting a study called "The Land of Milk and Honey?" analyzing what has happened to the thousands of mostly Filipino women who have come to Canada under the auspices of the LCP. Filipinos in Canada are considered one of the highly-educated and the fourth largest visible minority community but the deskilling of their profession has led many women to extreme desperation, the professor said.

"A lot of people who are already professionals in the Philippines are leaving because they can't support their families sufficiently with the wages they're making. As a result, a lot of university-educated individuals are working as nannies in private households in Canada," she said.

The LCP has recently come under formal scrutiny by Filipino women advocates in Canada, including the CIC for its tendency to exploit women.

Under the LCP, women who wish to have their status converted to landed immigrant must work as live-in caregivers for at least 24 months. This live-in arrangement has exposed them to abuses, according to Intercede, a Toronto-based non-government organization advocating the rights of domestic workers.

"The caregiver is often at the mercy of her employer," said program manager Columbia Diaz of Intercede, an agency helping domestic workers and new immigrants in Canada. "There are so many abuses being reported to us such as non-payment of overtime, holiday and vacation pay, excessive hours of work, non-

(continued on page 14)

Spell it "Balik-BUY-an" (from page 7)

chief executive Ricky Gutierrez said that easily 30 percent of its patrons are *balikbayans*, with arrivals peaking from December to March.

"They come to Sentro mainly because we provide comfort food for them. We offer something different from the cuisine that they are used to," Gutierrez said, "We are also happy that Filipinos here recommend the restaurant to their *balikbayan* friends." Best sellers include the *sinigang na* corned beef, the *galunggong* special and *sago't gulaman*.

Annabelle Wisniewski of the Discovery Hotel group said *balikbayans* also make up a sizable and growing market for the serviced apartment industry because not all of them want to stay with relatives.

"Many *balikbayans* choose to stay in a serviced apartment like the Discovery Suites because they can entertain their relatives here. At the same time, they can cook and have privacy," Wisniewski explained. She said the *balikbayans* usually stay for about two weeks to as long as a month.

Deli items: A piece of home

"It's a growing market because there are now more people going abroad, and those who still have roots here will always come back," she added.

And since *balikbayans* have to go back to their new homes, food companies are there to sell them a piece of home they can take back with them. Goldilocks marketing manager Pinky Yee said *balikbayans* usually take home *polvoron*, *mamon*, *ensaymada* and other pastries, so that Goldilocks had to change its packaging to make it easier for them to tote the baked goodies.

She added that because Goldilocks has realized how *balikbayans* contribute significantly to its income, the company decided to come up with the Pinoy Deli line of cooked meals in doy packs, like *dinuguan* and *bopis*, which are approved for entry into countries like the United States and Australia.

With companies themselves seriously wooing *balikbayans* with goods and services tailored to their needs, it is little wonder that these seasonal guests have made the country part of their yearly holiday plans. •

To Retire and Prosper in RP (from page 6)

Economic cost is another plus factor, and one of the major focus of the agency's marketing thrust on its website and on road shows abroad. The Philippines is definitely an affordable destination for retirees, notes the PRA general manager.

"If we're looking at a monthly pension of $1,000 to $1,500, retirees cannot survive in the United States with that kind of money. In Japan, they must have at least $3,000 to survive. But in the Philippines, with the exchange value of about P44,000 for every thousand dollars, retirees can live reasonably well with that pension. We have good hotels, condos and condotels, or they can lease a house and lot. They can employ a maid and even a driver with that amount."

Since 1985, about 16,000 expats composed mostly of Chinese, Taiwanese, Japanese and Korean nationals have enrolled in the SRVV program. Former Filipinos account for a mere one percent.

Generally, the market has responded well to the program, says Francisco. Compared to the first semester of 2006, registration increased by 250 enrollees during the same period this year.

One factor for the increase could be the Enrol-A-Friend program launched recently, that gives overseas Filipino workers and *balikbayans* a little commission for every foreign retiree that they endorse and whom they have convinced to come and live in the Philippines. Upon the retiree's enrollment to the program, the endorser receives a referral fee of $250.

More than the cash incentive, Francisco is banking on the Filipinos' love for the country: "We are requesting our *kababayan* (fellow nationals) to help promote the program by building up our country to foreigners. The larger purpose is of course to attract more investments here. If foreigners spend more money, that generates a lot of jobs. I would call that a patriotic duty of any citizen."

Acting as the private sector partner of the PRA in marketing its program is the Philippine Retirement Inc., a private voluntary organization whose members include real estate brokers, hospitals, lifestyle providers, and hotel operators. But definitely, they have as much stake in the program as the government. •

Vincent Cabreza

Golfing paradise: Retirees can look forward to a leisurely pace of life in the Philippines

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		1	2		5	6		
	3			7			8	
	8		3		2		1	
		6		1		9		
	4		5		9		7	
	5			3			6	
		2	9		8	3		

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/11

Answers in PDI, Nov. 12 issue

Answer to previous puzzle
PDI, Nov. 10

8	4	7	1	2	9	5	6	3
6	3	2	5	4	8	9	1	7
9	1	5	6	7	3	4	8	2
2	8	9	3	1	6	7	4	5
3	7	1	2	5	4	8	9	6
4	5	6	8	9	7	3	2	1
7	9	3	4	6	2	1	5	8
5	6	8	9	3	1	2	7	4
1	2	4	7	8	5	6	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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What's Inside Those Balikbayan Boxes? (from page 2)

The boxes often contain food items because the general perception abroad is that "people are going hungry in our country," says Rene Pinzon, who oversees UMAC's international units. Sending imported food rations is almost tantamount to giving their loved ones back home a taste of their lives abroad, he adds.

There is a marked difference, however, in the packages that come from the Middle East, Pinzon points out. Rather than foodstuffs, the boxes are filled with appliances and second-hand clothing.

"The variety of food available there is limited. Being a Muslim country, (Saudi Arabia) doesn't allow pork, and that narrows down the choices of food to sheep and chicken, which are more expensive," he says.

Items such as towels, bedsheets, soaps and other toiletries are often used as "fillers," to make sure that every inch of space inside the box is utilized, observes Baguisa.

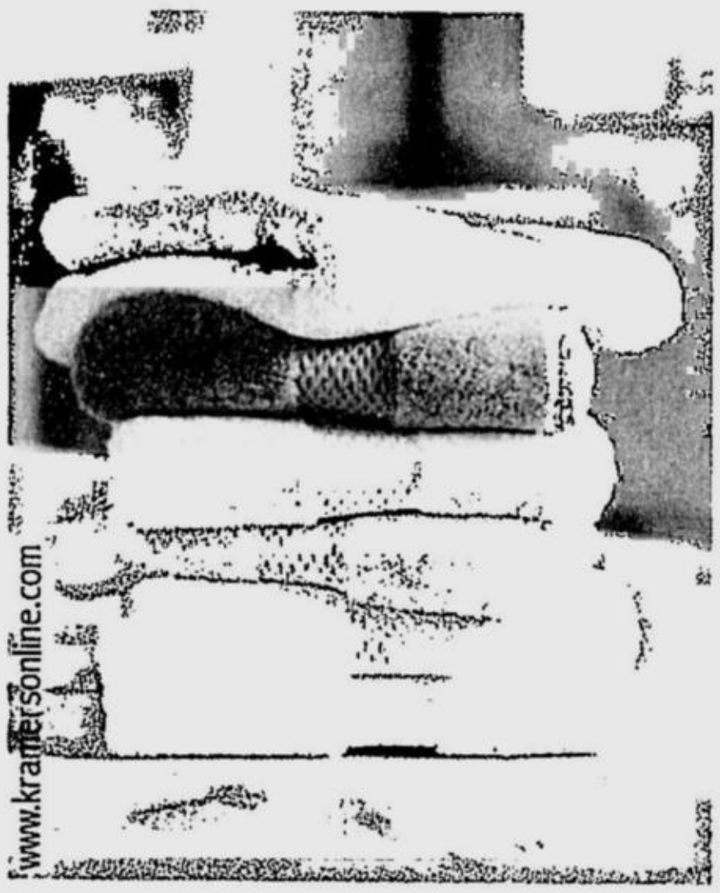
While *balikbayan* boxes are often sent as gifts to loved ones, some people see them as a means to earn extra cash.

Take office worker Ann, 24, of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, whose aunt in Chicago sends boxes of imported beauty products, toiletries and perfumes about twice a year.

"Sometimes there are just too many for the family, so we sell them to our officemates," admits Ann. The excess usually comes in handy during the Christmas season, she says, adding that she would make the rounds in her office to ask for orders.

"Victoria's Secret body sprays are our bestsellers," says Ann. "We sell them for P550, P50 lower than the price at the malls, and on installment basis at that." Bath and Body Works soap products rank second. The informal business gives them extra cash for the holidays, she adds.

For Ungco, such enterprising moves are proof that the *balikbayan* boxes bring not only delight to families back home, but that they also help boost the country's economy. His own business has gained from it, he adds. "When (the forwarding) business boomed in the 1990s, it started bringing in billions of pesos in taxes to our economy," he adds. •



www.kramersonline.com

www.victoriassecret.com

Popular *pasalubong*: Towels (above) and Victoria's Secret items (left)

Nothing Tastes Like Home (from page 3)

called the Fiesta Market has kiosks that sell everything a pregnant woman can imagine craving! They have sampaloc, dried fruits, fresh fruits, bottled jams from Davao, Bulacan, Cebu and other provinces, different kinds of vinegar, and even bottled Nana Meng Tsokolate that you can bring bring back to the States!

Once we're done shopping we can just cross over to Serendra, another new hot spot, and have some of that *ensaymada* you've been craving at Mary Grace Cafe. Mary Grace is known for her really soft *ensaymadas*. We can have classic or modernized versions, as in, with an apple cinnamon or different cheese toppings. We can pair these with the cafe's homemade hot chocolate too!

I can't wait to see you. We'll have a blast! Be prepared to gain 10 pounds!

Love,
Your *Inaanak* •

Aristocrat. San Andres corner Roxas Boulevard. www.aristocrat.com.ph.

Dampa. There are now many "dampa" or wet market locations, including Macapagal Boulevard, Farmer's Market and Libis. But the original Dampa is in Sucat, Paranaque City.

Viaje del Sol. Brochures available at Kape Isla in Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Kusina Salud. 285 Bgy. Sta. Cruz (Putol), San Pablo, Laguna. (02) 699-5036 or 0921 722 6985. kusinasalud@yahoo.com.

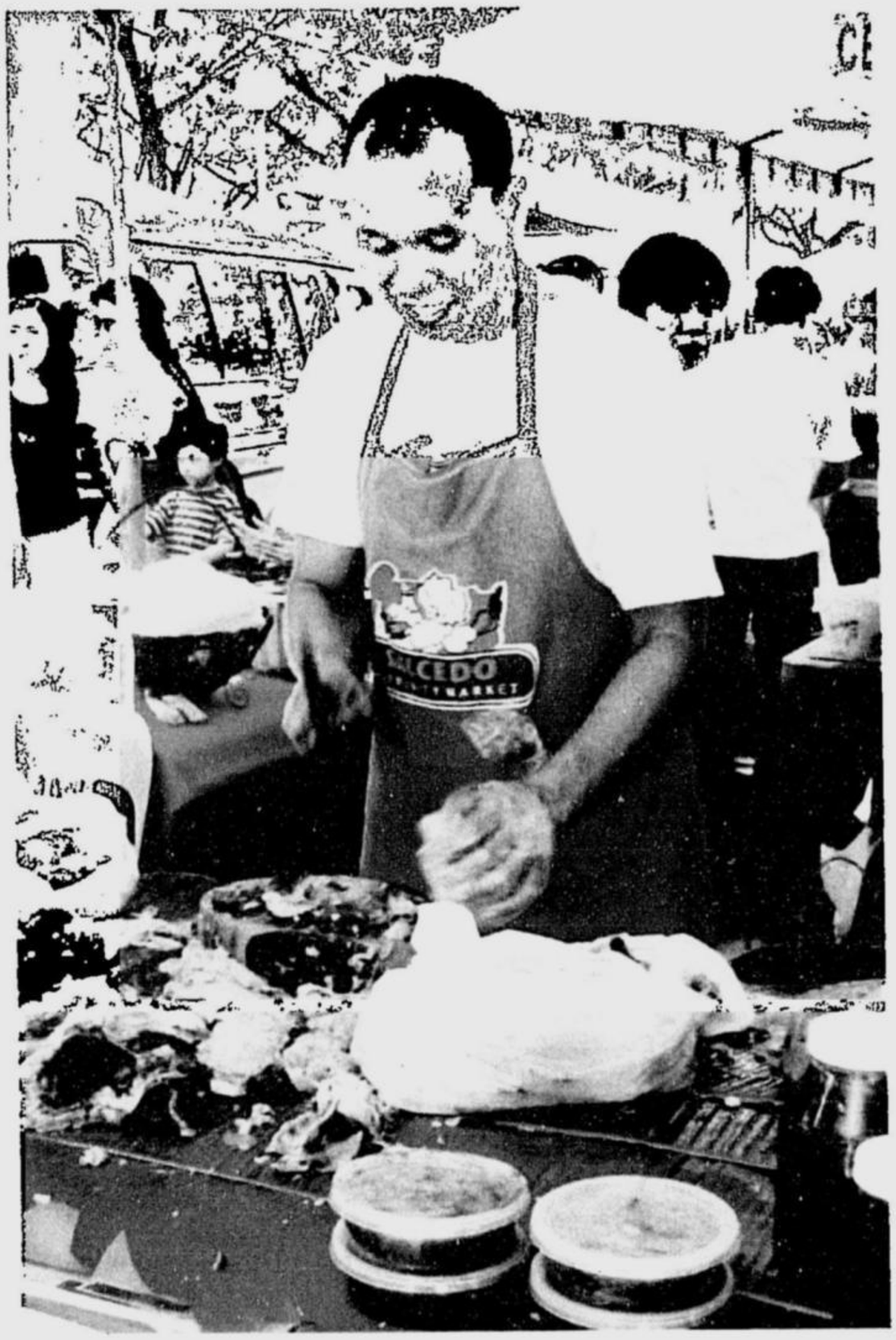
Sentro. Level 2 Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center Makati. 757-3940 or 0917-866-0449.

Salcedo Market. Leviste Street (beside Velasquez Park and Makati Sports Club), Salcedo Village, Makati.

Market! Market! Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. www.ayalamalls.com.ph.

Nana Meng Tsokolate. 0920-902-3216. nana.meng@gmail.com.

Mary Grace Cafe. Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.



Saturdays at Salcedo Market

Figure it out

109,027: Total number of overseas Filipinos (Philippine passport holders permanently residing abroad, excluding OFWs) who visited the country from January to July 2007.

6: Percentage of overseas Filipino arrivals to total visitor arrivals in the country (January to July 2007)

36.2: Percentage of OFW families who say their OFW member comes home only once every two years, according to a survey by Nielsen Media Research (First quarter 2007)

21.6: Percentage of OFW families who say their OFW member comes home once a year, according to a survey by Nielsen Media Research (First quarter 2007)

20 x 20 x 20 inches and 28 x 18 x 18 inches: Standard sizes of *balikbayan* boxes

15: Number of days from date of arrival that an OFW can buy goods from Duty Free Philippines (Extended to 30 days during the Christmas season, or from November 15 to January 15)

$1,500: Worth of items a *balikbayan* may buy from a Duty Free outlet within 15 days from arrival; may only be availed of on a one-time shopping basis.

$12.8 billion: Total OFW remittances in 2006

$9.3 billion: Total OFW remittances for the first eight months of 2007

$1.2 billion: Total OFW remittances in August 2007

1.2 million: Total number of deployed OFWs in 2004

1.3 million: Total number of deployed OFWs in 2005

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Sources: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, National Statistics Office, Balikbayangear.com, Department of Tourism, Nielsen Media Research

A Tragic Homecoming (from page 10)

issuance of a Record of Employment and pay slips and degrading treatment," said Diaz. In 2006 alone, she noted, at least 5,804 live-in caregivers sought the help of Intercede with various problems arising from their work. These include "catastrophic illnesses" and other health-related problems arising from stress and the emotional impact of family separation, as well as the physical demands of working long hours.

Diaz noted that many caregivers suffer quietly in isolation, often cowed into silence by employers who threaten them with deportation and calls to the police. "Many of them are unable to complain or defend themselves as a result of their temporary status or contractual situations. But they remain hopeful," she said.

If advocacy groups in Canada like SIKLAB-Canada and the National Alliance of Philippine Women in Canada had their way, the LCP program would be scrapped. The groups describe it as "a modern type of slavery." In a statement, they condemned LCP as an "anti-woman and racist policy that sentences live-in caregivers to a lifetime of domestic work, cleaning, and other service sector work, stealing their dignity and stripping them of their previous work experience and education."

These groups are calling for the scrapping of the LCP. The Canadian government, they argue, must remove its mandatory live-in requirement and allow workers to enter as permanent residents to prevent abuse and exploitation.

Diaz wants a review of the program. "We are pushing for the Canadian government to admit these live-in caregivers with a landed immigrant status to minimize, if not eliminate, abuse of these foreign domestic workers." She noted that these advocacies have been supported by the United Nations' Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Despite stories of abuse in host countries, the Philippines remains the number one exporter of labor in the world, according to Spitzer's study. Over eight million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are in at least 168 countries. It is estimated that 2,000 Filipinos leave the Philippines every day to work abroad.

Central Bank statistics show that dollar remittances from OFWs amounted to $12.8 billion dollars in 2006. The bulk of remittances came from the US, the United Kingdom, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Japan, and Hong Kong.

Such figures continue to fuel the hopes of millions of OFWs who, like Dulnuan, dreamt of sending their family a taste of the good life in a box. They never thought they could come home in one. **Women's Feature Service**

PDI Photo

Quest for justice: A rally for Dulnuan in front of the Foreign Affairs department

An Eye on Medical Tourism (from page 8)

himself checked for ailments and other physical complaints. Doing so saves him a bundle in terms of time and money. The cost of medical attention in Europe is easily double what local medics charge, and setting an appointment with a doctor can take months.

Most medical tourists come for one-time or short term treatment, observes Dr. Florencio Lucero, a qualified and fully-trained plastic surgeon with Philippine and US residency training. "Many patients on medical tourism go for plastic or cosmetic surgery mainly because these operations are perceived to be minor and that they can come and go within a short time," he says. But Lucero tells his medical tourist-patients that though they may opt for "minor" operations, they should try to arrange for a 10- to 14-day stay so that he can monitor the healing progress.

According to Lucero, the most common operations that medical tourists ask him to perform are eyelid and eyebag surgeries (blepharoplasty), noselifts (rhinoplasty), facelifts, liposuction and breast enhancements.

"Packaging medical and surgical services with tourism is my idea of medical tourism," Lucero says. But he does have reservations as well, he says, adding that our infrastructure continues to work against us. "I think the most common wishes of *balikbayans* to make coming home a better experience are peace and security, less traffic, a better airport, and a more convenient access to tourist spots."

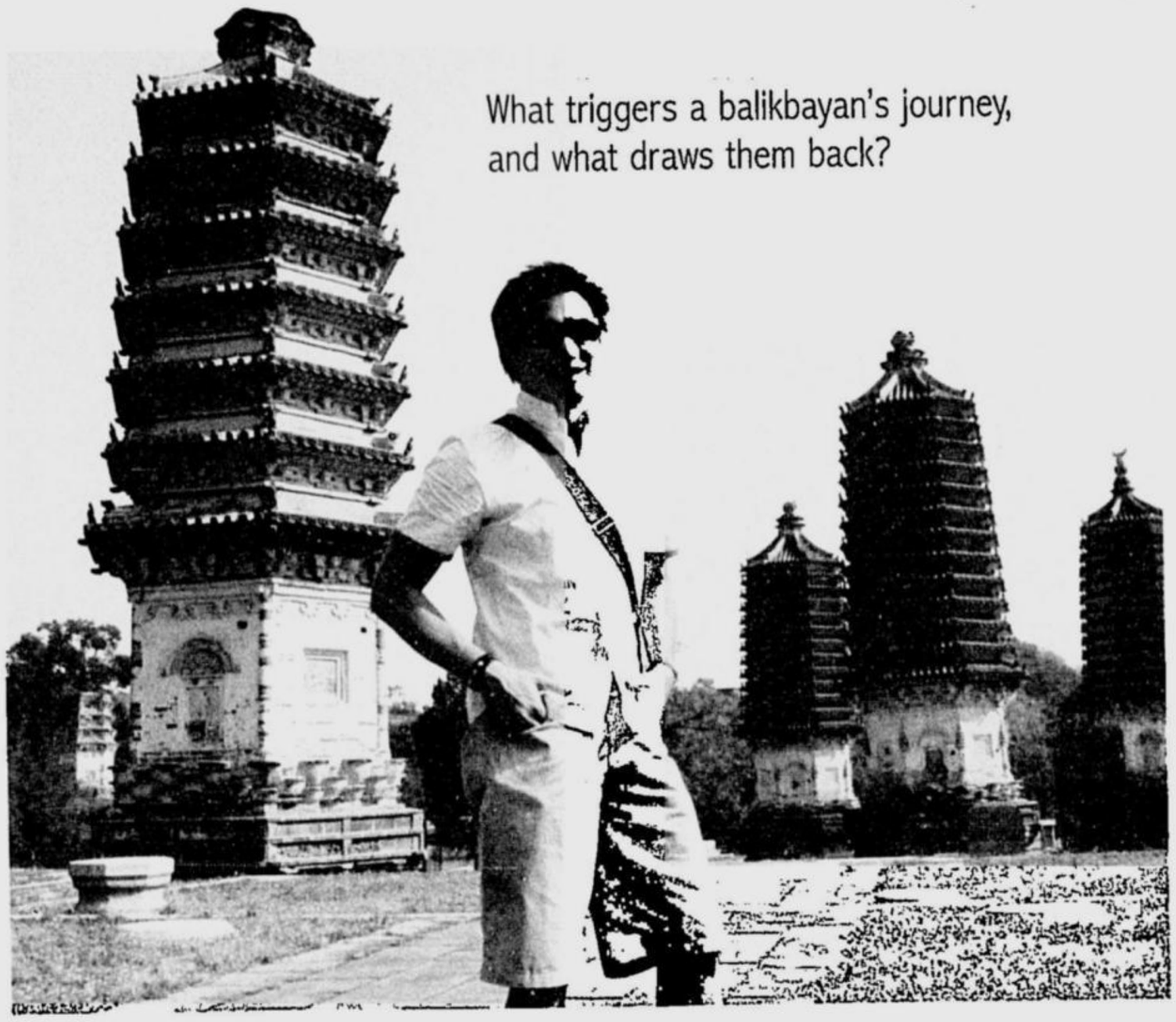
Although there is still room for improvement, Cristalle Belo Henares of the Belo Medical Group considers the immense growth potential of the Philippines as an emerging tourist destination for both holiday and health reasons, noting that we have doctors with world-class expertise and an international background, clinics with state-of-the-art facilities and the most modern technology, plus that uniquely Filipino brand of patient care. "Patients get the same world-class quality, plus the added bonus of seeing a prime and exotic tourist destination of their choice," she says.

It's probably for such reasons that so far, medical tourism has remained unaffected by the off-putting remark made by a character in the "Desperate Housewives" series. "For the record, the remark has not affected my practice at all," says Arroyo. •

By Leica R. Carpo

Home, Again

What triggers a balikbayan's journey, and what draws them back?



REMEMBERING what is most beloved about one's home is an inescapable part of being away. Why did they leave in the first place? What do *balikbayans* miss the most where they're going about their lives somewhere else and their thoughts turn to home?

Duenas (left)

"There was an opportunity to work abroad on a regional marketing job, and to experience and explore a new country, culture and language. I miss my family and close friends and the special occasions that I couldn't go home to. The 86th birthday of your grandmother or the birth of your nephew isn't the same when you just make a phone call and receive photos. I also miss the food, especially *adobo* and *sisig*! Alabang is still home for me, that's where my family and lots of memories are. Can't wait to go home for Christmas!

—**Sobee Duenas**, *regional brand manager, Color in Shanghai, China*

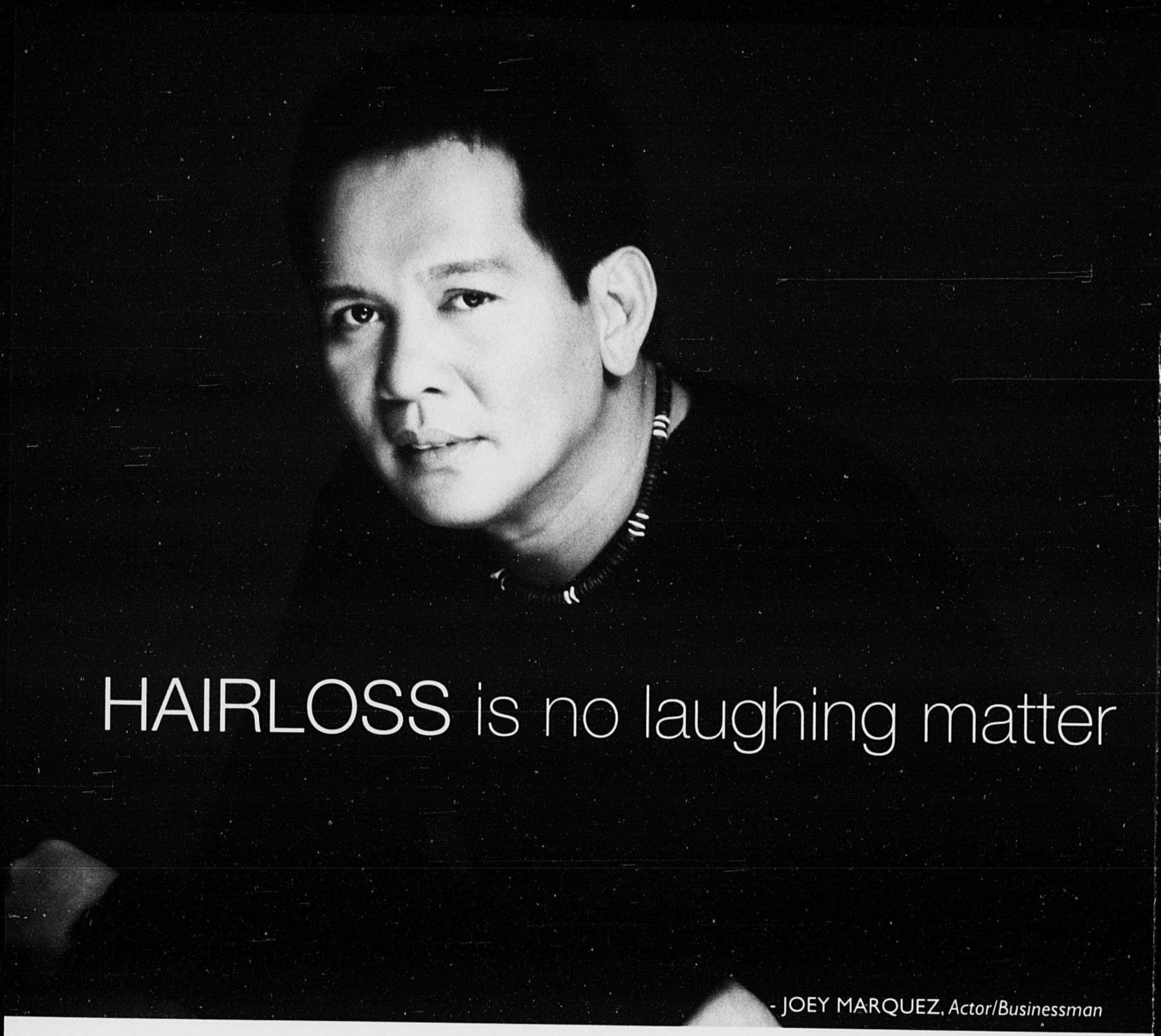
"I love the Philippines, but I didn't want to die without experiencing life beyond the islands. Beijing, being an Olympic city, with so much excitement, hustle and bustle, seemed to be an ideal place. While Rome wasn't built in a day, it seems this city was. I miss everything. Until I left, I never realized I could be such a *balikbayan* cliché. When home, I make sure I get my fix of Max's, Barrio Fiesta, *tinola* and *sinigang*. I love the night life as well. Everyday can be a weekend! The Philippines is and will always be my home. I will always be Filipino. I wouldn't have it any other way."

—**Marco Torres**, *marketing manager in China*

"Close family ties have always been part of Filipino culture. And I feel this keenly whenever I'm in New York, with family always on my mind. You may lose everything but family will always be there to love and accept you for who and what you are. I especially miss my mother, who has been supportive of all my endeavors and nurtured my interest in art, fashion, and architecture. Then there are my sisters, my muses who inspire me to do well in my craft. They're like my Barbie dolls who try on the clothing and accessories I ask them to without arguing, because they know that it will look good on them. My niece also comes to mind. For her I want to do good so she'll know that anything is possible. Dreams are free. If you work hard, you'll achieve success in life.

"I kept this in mind when I was just starting out. Fashion has always been a part of me. I have always been intrigued by the changing trends, season after season. When I was younger, I convinced my mother to take me to New York. I was drawn by the city's energy, people, and culture. I left Manila to gain independence. I wanted to prove that I could stand on my own. New York made me stronger, tougher, and even wiser. But it's the Philippines that played a major role in my success. I've always believed that I represent the country in any event that I go to. I'm proud of being Filipino. Our culture and traits make us different from the rest of the world. I've been telling my peers that the Philippines produces some of the best talents in the world. And they agree."

—**PJ Pascual**, *assistant accessories editor for O, the Oprah Magazine, New York*



"I've been a comedian for a long time, I'm used to being the butt of jokes. But I can still be touchy about my appearance. When I started experiencing hairloss, people made jokes about it. I was even called Monsignor because my bald spot was increasing to the size of a Monsignor's cap! I tried to not let it bother me but the truth was, it did. *Siyempre* with less hair you look older. And I'd rather be seen as classic, not old. I tried special shampoos and topical injections *sa* States but with no success. Then I went to Svenson. After three weeks I saw a big difference. Now, when people ask me, 'Is it a wig? A transplant?' I say, 'No, it's my real natural hair! It's Svenson.'"

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